

William A. Steiger

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
WISCONSIN



MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
DELIVERED IN CONGRESS

UNIVERSITY
OF FLORIDA
LIBRARIES



y 7.1: St 33





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016



Memorial Services

Held in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States,
together with remarks presented in eulogy of

William A. Steiger

Late a Representative from Wisconsin

Ninety-sixth Congress

First Session



E
840.8
.S67
U54
1979

*Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing*

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Biography -----	vii
Proceedings in the House -----	1
Announcement of death by the Honorable Clement J. Zablocki, of Wisconsin -----	2
Prayer by Rev. Edward G. Latch, D.D., former Chaplain of the House of Representatives -----	1
Resolution of respect -----	2
Tributes by Representatives:	
Abdnor, James, of South Dakota -----	60
Addabbo, Joseph P., of New York -----	78
Anderson, Glenn M., of California -----	51
Anderson, John B., of Illinois -----	94
Annunzio, Frank, of Illinois -----	81
Baldus, Alvin, of Wisconsin -----	53
Bauman, Robert E., of Maryland -----	38
Bolling, Richard, of Missouri -----	27
Brinkley, Jack, of Georgia -----	72
Broomfield, William S., of Michigan -----	80
Broyhill, James T., of North Carolina -----	84
Buchanan, John, of Alabama -----	52
Burton, Phillip, of California -----	101
Carter, Tim Lee, of Kentucky -----	79
Clausen, Don H., of California -----	37
Cleveland, James C., of New Hampshire -----	101
Collins, James M., of Texas -----	85
Conable, Barber B., Jr., of New York -----	20
Conte, Silvio O., of Massachusetts -----	66
Corman, James C., of California -----	64
Coughlin, Lawrence, of Pennsylvania -----	61
Derwinski, Edward J., of Illinois -----	71
Drinan, Robert F., of Massachusetts -----	68
Duncan, John J., of Tennessee -----	89
Erlenborn, John N., of Illinois -----	81
Findley, Paul, of Illinois -----	45
Ford, Harold, of Tennessee -----	4
Forsythe, Edwin B., of New Jersey -----	88
Frenzel, Bill, of Minnesota -----	35
Gephardt, Richard A., of Missouri -----	44
Gibbons, Sam M., of Florida -----	62
Gilman, Benjamin A., of New York -----	69

Proceedings in the House—Continued

Tributes by Representatives—Continued

	<i>Page</i>
Goldwater, Barry M., Jr., of California	76
Gradison, Willis D., Jr., of Ohio	68
Green, S. William, of New York	68
Hammerschmidt, John Paul, of Arkansas	28
Hanley, James M., of New York	74
Heckler, Margaret M., of Massachusetts	53
Heftel, Cecil, of Hawaii	40
Holland, Kenneth L., of South Carolina	42
Holt, Marjorie S., of Maryland	57
Horton, Frank, of New York	92
Hughes, William J., of New Jersey	45
Ichord, Richard H., of Missouri	59
Jacobs, Andrew, Jr., of Indiana	36
Jeffords, James M., of Vermont	42
Editorial from St. Johnsbury (Vt.) Caledonian Record, Dec. 7, 1978	43
Jenkins, Edgar L., of Georgia	49
Johnson, Harold T., of California	82
Jones, James R., of Oklahoma	29
Kastenmeier, Robert W., of Wisconsin	70
Kemp, Jack, of New York	85
Article from the Washington (D.C.) Post	87
Lagomarsino, Robert J., of California	92
Leach, Jim, of Iowa	49
Lederer, Raymond F., of Pennsylvania	38
Lent, Norman F., of New York	64
Long, Gillis W., of Louisiana	84
McClory, Robert, of Illinois	32
Maguire, Andrew, of New Jersey	33
Martin, James G., of North Carolina	95
Mazzoli, Romano L., of Kentucky	59
Michel, Robert H., of Illinois	26
Mikulski, Barbara A., of Maryland	100
Miller, Clarence E., of Ohio	46
Montgomery, G. V., of Mississippi	71
Moore, W. Henson, of Louisiana	61
Murphy, Morgan F., of Illinois	69
Myers, John T., of Indiana	79
Natcher, William H., of Kentucky	65
Obey, David R., of Wisconsin	22
O'Neill, Thomas P., Jr., of Massachusetts	46
Panetta, Leon E., of California	51
Pashayan, Charles, Jr., of California	100
Patten, Edward J., of New Jersey	99
Perkins, Carl D., of Kentucky	91
Pickle, J. J., of Texas	96

Proceedings in the House—Continued

Tributes by Representatives—Continued	<i>Page</i>
Preyer, Richardson, of North Carolina.....	78
Quayle, Dan, of Indiana.....	54
Quillen, James H., of Tennessee.....	83
Rangel, Charles B., of New York.....	75
Regula, Ralph S., of Ohio.....	99
Reuss, Henry S., of Wisconsin.....	77
Rhodes, John J., of Arizona.....	55
Article from the Washington (D.C.) Post.....	55
Ritter, Don, of Pennsylvania.....	98
Rostenkowski, Dan, of Illinois.....	72
Roth, Toby A., of Wisconsin.....	41
Roybal, Edward R., of California.....	74
Russo, Marty, of Illinois.....	75
Schulze, Richard T., of Pennsylvania.....	63
Sebelius, Keith G., of Kansas.....	60
Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr., of Wisconsin.....	47, 97
Wisconsin's Own Tribute to William Steiger—1977 En- rolled Joint Resolution 47.....	98
Shuster, E. G., of Pennsylvania.....	59
Stangeland, Arlan, of Minnesota.....	51
Udall, Morris K., of Arizona.....	83
Ullman, Al, of Oregon.....	57
Van Deerlin, Lionel, of California.....	76
Vander Jagt, Guy, of Michigan.....	58
Vanik, Charles A., of Ohio.....	89
Wilson, Bob, of California.....	2, 100
Article by David S. Broder, "Bill Steiger: A Story That Should Have Been Told".....	2
Wilson, Charles H., of California.....	93
Winn, Larry, Jr., of Kansas.....	83
Wydler, John W., of New York.....	73
Wylie, Chalmers P., of Ohio.....	67
Young, C. W. Bill, of Florida.....	66
Zablocki, Clement J., of Wisconsin.....	2, 5
Sundry newspaper articles and editorials re Representa- tive Steiger's death.....	6
Proceedings in the Senate.....	105
Message from the House.....	105
Resolution of respect.....	107
Tributes by Senators:	
Proxmire, William, of Wisconsin.....	105
Article from New York Times by James Reston.....	106
Tower, John G., of Texas.....	108

Biography

WILLIAM ALBERT STEIGER was born in Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wis., May 15, 1938; attended Rose C. Swart Campus School and Oshkosh High School; University of Wisconsin, B.S., 1960; chairman, College Service Committee, Young Republican National Federation, 1959-61; elected to the State assembly from the first district of Winnebago County in 1960; reelected in 1962, 1964, and 1966; chairman, YMCA Youth in Government Committee, 1964-66; former president, Steiger-Rathke Development Co.; member, board of directors, Oshkosh Motor Lodge, Inc.; assistant chief page, Republican National Convention, 1960; delegate, Republican National Convention, 1968; elected as a Republican to the Ninetieth Congress, November 8, 1966; reelected to the six succeeding Congresses and served from January 3, 1967, until his death December 4, 1978, in Washington, D.C.; interment in Lake View Memorial Park, Oshkosh, Wis.

MEMORIAL SERVICES
FOR
WILLIAM A. STEIGER

Proceedings in the House

MONDAY, January 15, 1979.

This being the day fixed by the 20th amendment of the Constitution and Public Law 95-594 of the 95th Congress for the annual meeting of the Congress of the United States, the Members-elect of the House of Representatives of the 96th Congress met in their Hall, and at 12 o'clock noon were called to order by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Hon. Edmund L. Henshaw, Jr.

The former Chaplain, Rev. Edward G. Latch, D.D., delivered the following prayer:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—
Psalms 46: 1.

O God, our Father, who is the refuge and strength of Your people in every age and our refuge and strength in this present hour, we pause in Your presence as we open the first session of the 96th Congress to offer unto You the devotion of our hearts and to dedicate our thoughts and actions to the welfare of the people of our beloved Republic.

Aware of Your presence help us to accept our responsibility to lead our Nation into a larger good for our citizens and for the people on our planet. Amid the voices which call us to lower our high ideals may we feel the power of Your presence and the life of Your love. With Your Spirit may we make this a great year in the life of our Republic.

We call to mind the lives of two of our Members, Leo J. Ryan and WILLIAM A. STEIGER who have gone home to be with You. For their devotion to duty and their love for our country we thank You. Comfort their families with the strength of Your Spirit.

We pause to remember the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the contribution he made to his people and to the life of our Nation.

Lead us all into a deeper understanding of Your message to us. Walking with You in ever greater trust may we go forward to build upon this planet an order of life in which justice and truth and

brotherhood shall prevail for the good of all Your children and the glory of Your holy name.

Reverently may we offer together this familiar and heart warming prayer.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Mr. ZABLOCKI. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution. The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 12

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable WILLIAM A. STEIGER, a Representative from the State of Wisconsin.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. BOB WILSON. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I include the following:

BILL STEIGER: A STORY THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TOLD

(By David S. Broder)

It is a cliché in the political-reporting business that every one of us carries around in his head a list of stories that he would have given his eyeteeth to have written. Some are scoops on which you were beaten. Some are exposes for which you wish you could claim credit. But the most uncomfortably remembered stories are those where you might have said—but did not—that somebody is doing a helluva job in public office.

BILL STEIGER had done that kind of a job ever since he came to the House of Representatives in 1966 as a 28-year-old freshman Republican from Oshkosh, Wis. He died last week, after a heart attack, at age 40. The sense of personal loss that I share with his other friends and admirers is compounded by the regret that this column was not written earlier—not for STEIGER's sake, but for the greater credibility that it might have had with the young people for whom he had a special concern.

They are awfully cynical about politics and politicians these days. On the college campuses that I have visited in the past few weeks, the students are very familiar with the real names and cases of Congressman Kickback and Senator Shakedown, and they ask, in world-weary voices, why the voters re-

elect such men and why Congress seats them. They don't ask about the Steigers of the world—and for a good reason. We haven't told them nearly as much about them. And we should have.

STEIGER was 13 when he learned that he had diabetes. He lived as long as he did by injecting insulin twice a day. Despite it, he was unstinting in the energy that he poured into politics and public office. By the time he was an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin, his friend and classmate, John Bibby, recalls, "BILL has done so much in campus politics and state and national Young Republican politics that our professors discussed things with him as they would with a political pro."

He was graduated in June 1960, and the next November was elected to the state Assembly. There, he became a leading proponent of a state open-housing law that was finally passed in his third term. It was a strange issue for a man from a district that then included only 189 nonwhites, but STEIGER was never a parochial politician.

In 1966, he ran against an incumbent Democratic congressman who had opposed federal open-housing laws and tried to make that an issue against STEIGER. The voters were wiser than the opponent thought, and gave STEIGER the first of his seven House victories.

During his House service, Republicans were always in a minority. In that situation, it is easy and tempting to vote against every program not desired by the dominant interests in your district. STEIGER did not do that. He took the far harder course of searching out ways to shape basic legislation and push national policy in directions that he thought it should go. In doing so he became, as his Wisconsin Democratic colleague, Rep. David R. Obey (a legislator of comparable quality), said, "the Republican who was the most effective bridge between the parties in Congress."

Working with Sen. Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D-N.J.), he devised the compromise that permitted passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1970. Working with Sen. Spark M. Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), he succeeded in 1971 in legislating the end of the draft and the start of the volunteer Army. Working with then-Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.), he was instrumental in gaining passage of the program providing legal services to the poor.

STEIGER was a reformer who understood the importance of knowing the rules. He was an "institutional man," devoted to the House and to the Republican Party. His respect for them made him willing to work long hours against great odds to improve their functioning.

As his reputation inside Congress grew, so did the opportunities to cash in by accepting lucrative outside job offers. Another friend, Rep. Barber M. Conable, Jr. (R-N.Y.), recalls that STEIGER turned down an industrial-foundation post that would have doubled his congressional salary and provided financial security for his wife and young son. Instead, he stayed at his work. In leading the successful fight this year for reduction in capital-gains taxes, over the opposition of President Carter and the Democratic congressional leadership, he won acclaim from financial circles that managed to overlook his earlier constructive work in the social-policy area.

Methodically, as always, STEIGER used his new role as a sought-after speaker on the national GOP fund-raising circuit as a way to mobilize support for his next major goal: the nomination and election of his friend George Bush to the Presidency.

STEIGER was a man of exceptional talent, integrity and drive. But there are more than a few of his kind in politics. It would honor his memory if we occasionally wrote about them, too—before they die.

Mr. FORD of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I join my colleagues in mourning the death of the Honorable WILLIAM A. STEIGER of Wisconsin.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I came to know BILL STEIGER as a tremendously articulate spokesman for whatever cause he represented. Although a member of the minority party, he was very effective and influential in committee proceedings. Having BILL STEIGER on your side of an issue meant a great deal. He did not support a position just because one party or the other supported it—he voted for something because he thought it was right. Similarly, he was a formidable opponent. His arguments were rooted in sound logic which was hard to dispute.

BILL STEIGER came to this body in 1967 as the youngest Member of Congress. Through six terms he kept his youthful appearance, his vigor, and his fresh approach to the ideas and issues which face all of us as representatives of the people. The reason for this is that BILL STEIGER truly loved his work as few Members of this body do. You could see this in his smiling face and friendly nature.

Only in the last Congress did BILL STEIGER attract much national attention. And attract it he did with the Steiger amendment on capital gains. He truly believed that our tax policy needs to stimulate capital formation, and he worked hard to get his amendment passed. However, he was not averse to compromise—he did not want to hold up the progress of vital tax legislation and threw his support behind a compromise. This brand of unselfishness—this putting the good of the public above one's own self-interest—can only be called statesmanship.

The term "statesman" is rarely used in connection with a Member of Congress. BILL STEIGER is worthy of this title, and this body will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to the Steiger family, their friends, and all of those who feel the loss of BILL STEIGER.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HANCE. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to the deceased, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Thursday, January 18, 1979, at 11 o'clock a.m.

THURSDAY, *January 25, 1979.*

Mr. ZABLOCKI. Madam Speaker, 8 weeks ago the House of Representatives lost one of its most outstanding, dedicated, and competent Members, Representative BILL STEIGER of Wisconsin.

The sense of dismay I personally felt upon hearing that my colleague and good friend, BILL STEIGER, had passed away made me question how a young man, only 40 years of age, so worthy of life, could be taken from us. As human beings it is difficult for us to understand why good men die young. One consolation, however, is that their goodness, principles, and accomplishments live on.

Professionally, I admired BILL STEIGER for many reasons: First and foremost, he lived according to a strict moral and ethical code. When he compromised on an issue, it was done with shrewdness and political astuteness, but never with a loss of the guiding moral principles that fashioned his high standards. BILL also possessed the unique quality of being able to disagree without being disagreeable. BILL STEIGER was a producer in the true sense of the word. More than that, he was a leader who made things happen, and a statesman with a keen sense of national priorities. Among the many legislative accomplishments in which he played a major role are OSHA, the all-volunteer Army, and capital gains tax relief, to name but a few.

Madam Speaker, BILL STEIGER unquestionably made many significant legislative contributions during his all too brief tenure in the House. Certainly his future efforts would have been even more important. That his legacy was curtailed by his untimely death is the Nation's loss. But the loss I still feel is a personal one, the loss of a good friend, a warm, thoughtful, and loving human being, who touched my life and left me a better person.

The English poet Robert Southey, perhaps expressed this feeling best when he wrote:

The loss of a friend is like that of a limb, time may heal the anguish of the wound, but the loss cannot be repaired.

Madam Speaker, BILL STEIGER died at an early age, but his spirit will live on. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing him and working with him will continue to draw strength from his example of honor, courage, and an inspiration to follow our consciences and our God, and will aspire to serve our fellow man with similar dedication.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of BILL STEIGER and extend my personal and sincere condolences in friendship to his devoted wife, Janet, his son, Bill, Jr., his father, family, and friends.

Madam Speaker, press accounts of BILL STEIGER's passing have been voluminous, repeatedly expressing highest praise, respect, and admiration for him. I would like to share with my colleagues at least a few editorials and articles, many of which appeared in newspapers throughout Wisconsin and the Nation; specifically I call attention to the article "Politics—As STEIGER Practiced It" by George F. Will, a highly respected columnist, which appeared in the Washington Post on December 7, 1978:

[From the Madison Capitol Times, Dec. 4, 1978]

SHOCKED POLITICAL LEADERS PRAISE REPRESENTATIVE STEIGER

Congressmen and political leaders from both sides of the aisle, shocked by the untimely death of U.S. Rep. WILLIAM STEIGER, R-Oshkosh, today praised their deceased colleague for his bright mind, friendliness, honesty, energy and potential for party and national leadership.

"BILL STEIGER," said Wisconsin Sen. William Proxmire, D, "will be sorely missed for his first-rate mind, his strength of character and his marvelous personality."

His death, said Proxmire, "takes from us a man of intelligence, ability and marvelous sensitivity to the needs of all the people in his district—working men and women, farmers, professional people and small businessmen."

House Minority Leader John Rhodes, R-Arizona, said STEIGER, 40, who died this morning in his sleep at his Washington, D.C, townhouse, "exemplified all that was good in our public officials. His energy, dedication and ability to understand the issues made him one of the most valuable members of the Ways and Means Committee."

"He had a great capacity for friendship," Rhodes said. "He was one of the best-liked members—popular on both sides of the middle aisle. The country is the poorer for his untimely death. I am sure that all of his colleagues join me in mourning his loss."

U.S. Rep. Robert Kasten, R-Thiensville, who for several years served with STEIGER as the only two Republican members of the state's Washington delegation, said STEIGER's death is a personal loss for him. "The tragic, untimely death of my good friend and colleague BILL STEIGER is a great loss to the people of his district, the State of Wisconsin and the nation. I personally feel a great sense of loss, BILL was a friendly person I always confided in," Kasten said.

"BILL was truly one of the bright young leaders of Congress," he continued. "His leadership since coming to Washington in 1967 and his work on the Ways and Means Committee reflected intellectual prowess, political astuteness and a deep concern for the direction of America. He has left an indelible mark."

Acting Gov. Martin Schreiber, who served in the State Senate at the same time STEIGER was serving in the Assembly, said he was saddened by STEIGER's death, adding, "We who have served with him and those who have been served by him were strengthened by his dedication and his example as a public official with superior integrity."

Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, the speaker of the House, said, "BILL STEIGER had one of the brightest minds and was one of the most personable members in the House of Representatives. His contributions will be remembered for a long time."

Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wisconsin, called STEIGER a "valued friend" and said his death is "shocking and sad. BILL was in his prime. He was a young, vigorous legislator. He worked hard for his party, but he also labored unstintingly on a non-partisan basis in the best tradition of Wisconsin progressive politics."

Fellow Representative Robert Kastenmeier, D-Sun Prairie, said STEIGER was "one of the most highly regarded and well-liked members of Congress and was rapidly becoming a national figure because of his work on taxation and other issues * * * A great deal was expected of him in the 96th Congress, since he was just starting to emerge as a Congressional leader and a spokesman for his party.

"I served with BILL for 12 years," Kastenmeier said, "and knew no one who worked harder for the interest of Wisconsin. He was trustworthy, reliable, a man of utmost integrity and a superb public servant."

"He will be greatly missed by the people of Wisconsin and by all of us who knew him and worked for him," Kastenmeier said.

"Oh Lord, we lose a star," said former state GOP Chairman George Parker. "There's no question about that—a star who had national standing. It's a blow. He's going to be very, very difficult to replace—if it's possible to replace him."

An assessment in 1972 by consumer activist Ralph Nader's Congress Watch said of him, "STEIGER's near-adolescent appearance and Eagle Scout demeanor hide a legislative toughness and a dozen years of political experience * * * He is very craftsmanlike and meticulous and a helluva lot tougher than you would imagine from his appearance."

Former Republican Gov. Warren P. Knowles said he was shocked to learn of STEIGER's death. "He's given a lifetime of service in the political area. His loss will be greatly felt," said Knowles, who said he knew of STEIGER's diabetes.



[From the Milwaukee Journal, Dec. 4, 1978]

STATE, NATIONAL FIGURES LAMENT DEATH OF STEIGER

Friends and constituents were shocked Monday to learn of the death of U.S. Rep. WILLIAM STEIGER, congressman from Wisconsin's sixth district.

"BILL STEIGER was one of the brightest minds and the most personable members of the House," said House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill. "His contributions here will be remembered for a long time."

Rep. Clement J. Zablocki, of Milwaukee, the senior member of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation, said he was shocked and deeply saddened at STEIGER's death.

"It was a privilege to know and work with BILL STEIGER," Zablocki said. "The untimely death of Rep. STEIGER deprives his constituents of a fine, dedicated representative and it deprives the Republican Party, the state and the nation of an outstanding leader."

Rep. Henry S. Reuss, of Milwaukee, chairman of the House Banking Committee, said he was shocked and saddened.

"BILL STEIGER was a fine man and a splendid public servant," Reuss said. "The people of his congressional district have lost a dedicated leader, the causes he espoused have lost a staunch champion and I've lost a good friend."

J. Michael Borden, state Republican chairman, said he knew STEIGER well. "It's a great personal loss for me, for Wisconsin and the nation as well," Borden said. He said STEIGER was one of the top men in Congress.

"I had no idea he had a health problem. I knew he had diabetes, but I thought he had it under control," Borden said. STEIGER was found dead in his bed Monday morning.

Borden said STEIGER was "incredibly honest" and "was the kind of man you hoped would go into politics."

PRaised FOR CONCERN

He said some people who go to Washington "get Potomac fever and the party never sees them again. That wasn't the case with BILL STEIGER."

Former Republican Gov. Warren Knowles said he was shocked.

"BILL has certainly been an outstanding member of the congressional delegation and has dedicated his life to politics in Wisconsin," Knowles said.

"With his death, I am at a loss even to speculate on who might succeed him and do the kind of job representing Wisconsin that he has done. He is virtually irreplaceable in his district."

POLITICALLY TOUGH

An assessment in 1972 by consumer activist Ralph Nader's Congress Watch said of him:

"STEIGER's near adolescent appearance and Eagle Scout demeanor hide a legislative toughness and a dozen years of political experience. * * * He is very craftsmanlike and meticulous and a helluva lot tougher than you would imagine from his appearance."



[From the Milwaukee Journal, Dec. 5, 1978]

SKY WAS LIMIT FOR STEIGER, FRIENDS AGREE

(By Frank A. Aukofer)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—BILL STEIGER could have been anything, even president.

That statement is no reflection of present political reality, for the Republican congressman from Oshkosh was not a nationally known figure, although he was on his way to becoming one.

Rather, it is a consensus of those who worked with him and knew him well, and is an assessment of his abilities and his potential.

"I think he was one of the most respected legislators in Congress," said George Bush, the former United Nations ambassador, Republican Party chairman and CIA head. "With his brilliance and his retentive memory, I think the sky was the limit for BILL STEIGER."

Over and over, that theme emerged in the aftermath of STEIGER's death Monday from a heart attack and hardening of the arteries. STEIGER's diabetes contributed to the artery condition.

"There was almost no limit to what BILL could have accomplished," said Bill Brock, the Republican national chairman and a close friend. "He was thoughtful and creative, and he was loved and respected by people across the board, not only in our party but in both parties. And he was developing an ability in the House to truly lead."

President Carter said STEIGER had earned the respect of his colleagues.

At 40, with 12 years in the House behind him, the boyish looking Wisconsin representative had earned a reputation for intelligence, diligence, hard work and that most sought after but seldom achieved political asset, timing.

Last spring, STEIGER introduced his proposal to reduce capital gains taxes as a way to boost the economy and fight inflation, and it started an avalanche that saw the tax reduced from a top rate of 49 percent to 28 percent—only three percentage points above what STEIGER originally wanted.

Even STEIGER was surprised at the way his proposal snowballed, and he was delighted with his role as the point man, laughing gleefully when Carter himself was forced to attack the Steiger amendment.

It brought national recognition, and in recent months STEIGER had been giving as many as two and three speeches a day. His last was in Boca Raton, Fla., last week before a group of securities industry representatives, who gave him a standing ovation.

But STEIGER was in demand for much more than his knowledge of taxes. He was a leader in legislation that created the all-volunteer military services, that set up the Legal Services Corp. for the poor and that established the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

CLOSE FRIEND

Bush, a close friend and godfather to STEIGER's son, Billy, recalled a meeting of top national economists at Bush's home in Kennebunkport, Maine, last summer. Among those at the gathering were Paul McCracken and Arthur F. Burns, the former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

"You could just see how those people respected him," Bush said. "He was younger than all of them but he had their respect."

Bush said he thought that some day STEIGER might have run for the Senate.

"I don't know whether he had any presidential ambitions," Bush said, "but he certainly would have had the intellectual capacity to handle that. But he was a modest fellow. He didn't promote himself. * * *"

Members of STEIGER's staff said the congressman loved his work. He was "desperately happy," one said, and probably would have continued to carve out a leadership role for himself in the House. Some saw him as a cabinet member—secretary of the treasury or of health, education, and welfare—in a future Republican administration.

JOB OFFER

A few years ago, STEIGER considered leaving the House when he was offered a position as head of the National Safety Council in Chicago, according to a close friend and colleague, Rep. Barber B. Conable, Jr. (R-N.Y.).

The job would have provided financial security for STEIGER's family and would have enabled him to live closer to Wisconsin. But Conable said he talked STEIGER out of it.

"I said, 'If people like you get out of government what's going to happen to the country?'" Conable recalled.

"I saw him as a national asset, one who would grow in importance and stature and understanding every year, which he did. People expected BILL STEIGER to be in the middle of everything, and he never disappointed them."

ON HIS WAY

Conable said STEIGER clearly was on his way to becoming a dominant figure on the crucial matter of tax legislation. But he also had started becoming an expert on international trade and was increasingly important to the Republican Party, which he served with the same sort of hard work and diligence he brought to the House.

"He was becoming one of the most effective and articulate spokesmen for the party," said GOP Chairman Brock. "But more so for legislation that had a human component. * * *

"His range of talents made him precisely the kind of person we should be looking for in elective office—from the president to any other office."



[From the Milwaukee Journal, Dec. 5, 1978]

BILL STEIGER'S ENDURING MARK

Rep. WILLIAM STEIGER was the kind of officeholder who gives politics a good name.

He was earnest and diligent about his work, and unusually effective, but he refused to take himself too seriously. He had a clear political philosophy—it was moderately conservative—but he never let himself get ensnared in petty dogma. As a Republican, he was always in the minority in Congress, but he had a talent for finding bipartisan consensus.

STEIGER was a professional, mastering the complexity of tax laws or the intricacy of legislative maneuver as thoroughly as a pianist masters an etude. After 12 years in Congress, he was coming into his own as a legislative power.

When death ended his career Monday, STEIGER was only 40, but he had left a durable mark. He will be remembered not just for the historic job safety legislation (OSHA) that bears his name, or for his pioneering support of the all-volunteer army, or for the tax policies he helped shape or the sensible influence that he exerted on party politics.

No. BILL STEIGER will be remembered also for his quick smile, friendly manner and sharp wit—the human qualities that helped make him an admirable person and a first rate public official.

[From the Milwaukee Sentinel, Dec. 5, 1978]

STEIGER HELD IN HIGH REGARD

(By Richard Bradee)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The death of Rep. WILLIAM A. STEIGER (R-Wis.), at the age of 40, ended a political career that was remarkable in this town for trustworthiness and personal good humor.

That point was made best by Rep. David R. Obey (D-Wis.), who has debated partisan issues with STEIGER for 20 years. Obey choked back tears as he talked about their years together.

"We trusted each other so much; he was just personally kind and thoughtful," Obey said.

In a written statement, Obey called STEIGER "truly a professional in the finest and most positive sense of the word. I never saw him do a destructive thing. I never saw him take a cheap shot."

STEIGER, who looked not much older at 40 than he did when he was a Young Republican at the University of Wisconsin—Madison 20 years ago, spent most of his years in national politics as a member of a liberal minority in the minority Republican Party.

In recent weeks, he quietly laid the groundwork for another Republican long shot, former Texas Rep. George Bush, the choice of some moderates for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination.

At Republican national conventions in 1968, 1972 and 1976, STEIGER fought to open his party to blacks and other minorities. Battles over party rules often droned on into the night, and it was not until 1978 that the causes STEIGER fought for proved to have some national impact.

Many of the Republicans who won in 1978 courted the black vote that their party virtually wrote off in the last three presidential elections.

In Congress, Republicans are outnumbered 2 to 1 and often assume the role of simply reacting to Democratic proposals.

When Democrats took both the White House and Congress in 1976, STEIGER sometimes talked of the overwhelming odds against Republicans having any influence on national policy.

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, STEIGER used sheer energy and intellect to become a leader of an influential middle group of Democrats and Republicans.

To the surprise of many politicians, STEIGER's bill to cut capital gains taxes formed the basis of the major congressional tax bill last year, despite the opposition of President Carter and Democratic leaders in Congress.

His work on trade, Social Security, health care and inflation were beginning to bear fruit.

In the next Congress he had been expected to play a leading role in developing national policy on both foreign trade and inflation.

"He was the only Republican to vote with me, procedurally, on the first ethics package three years ago," Obey recalled.

The vote cost STEIGER an appointment that he had sought to the commission that rewrote the rules of the House of Representatives.

"He was a tremendous bridge between the parties. We don't have anyone who can do that now," Obey said.

[From the Madison Press Connection, Dec. 5, 1978]

DREYFUS, SCHREIBER PRAISE REPRESENTATIVE STEIGER

(By Ed Bark)

The late Rep. WILLIAM STEIGER (R-Wis.) was paid tribute Monday by Wisconsin's two ranking elected officials.

Democratic Gov. Martin Schreiber and Republican Gov.-Elect Lee Dreyfus offered unstinting praise for their political colleague, who died in his sleep Monday at the age of 40. A Republican from Oshkosh, STEIGER had represented the state's sixth congressional district since 1967.

Schreiber first met STEIGER in 1956 at a Badger Boys State convention. STEIGER had been elected "governor" of the Badger Boys State the year before and returned as was customary to address the 1956 group of honored high school juniors.

"He (STEIGER) was a person that you warmed to almost immediately," Schreiber recalled. "Although we had a brief discussion and nothing more, it was a heartening experience." STEIGER and Schreiber subsequently served in the State Legislature together from 1962-66. "I knew him to be a top notch person," Schreiber said. "He responded to the party line, but always with dignity. He was a person of his word and you never had to be concerned with cuteness and game playing."

In a telephone interview from Stevens Point, Dreyfus described STEIGER as a "rising star" who was "moving up in the Republican ranks and then chopped off."

"It's just hard to comprehend," Dreyfus said.

During the gubernatorial campaign, Dreyfus said his wife, Joyce, was apprehensive about campaigning at plant gates until STEIGER offered to accompany her.

"I'd gotten to know BILL pretty doggone well this past year," Dreyfus said. "If STEIGER had been the candidate (for governor), I would not have seen the kind of need to run that I saw when I first came into the party."

State Sen. Scott McCallum (R-Fond du Lac) was an administrative assistant to STEIGER from 1973-74. "It was a personal loss to me," McCallum said of STEIGER's death. "It was a loss to everyone in the district, the state and really the nation, as BILL STEIGER was emerging as a national leader."

The Senate Minority Leader Clifford Krueger (R-Merrill) described STEIGER as "an outstanding congressman * * * recognized throughout the nation for his innovative ideas on taxation."



[From the Wisconsin State Journal, Dec. 5, 1978]

WILLIAM A. STEIGER

Rep. WILLIAM A. STEIGER achieved, and contributed, far beyond his years.

But those years numbered only 40 before he died in his sleep early Monday. The premature death came without warning, adding to the shock.

It was less than a month ago, that BILL STEIGER, the Oshkosh Republican, had been elected to his seventh term in Congress by an overwhelming 70 per-

cent of the votes. It was his largest victory margin and is why his seat in Congress had been called "the safest one held by the Republican Party."

The congressman, who always looked younger than his years, seemed poised for even more productive work as a lawmaker. That estimate had a solid basis in past accomplishments.

Winning was his political way of life.

He died unbeaten.

It began in 1960 when he was elected to the Wisconsin Legislature at age 22, becoming the second youngest member at the time. He served until 1966 when he won the Sixth District seat in Congress.

He was then the youngest member of Congress at age 28.

But BILL STEIGER had a cool maturity beyond his physical and political years. He swiftly became an effective lawmaker and influential member of his party.

Even as a minority-party member in Congress, he got things done. To illustrate, he was prominent in formation of the volunteer armed forces; he helped enact laws to relieve unfair and inequitable burdens on individuals, taking a particular lead in calling for laws to protect the health and safety of workers, and, most recently, was the foremost exponent of capital-gains tax relief that was adopted in part by the Carter administration in its tax bill.

BILL STEIGER had the ability not to lose sight of important objectives. He would not sacrifice principle for compromise, but he would compromise if it meant moving toward a desired goal.

Perhaps his most lasting contribution was in helping open the Republican National Convention and the party itself to a more broadly representative membership.

He had a strong commitment to his party, but never feared being critical of his party if he felt it should be improved.

He rarely showed his emotions, remaining in control of himself and the situation, but he felt deeply young and old, to women as well as men, to minority and heritage groups as well as to the predominant whites.

This was convincingly on display at the 1972 Republican National Convention where he led the fight to broaden selection of delegates. He and his colleagues lost that battle but not the war.

The Wisconsin congressman had presented the case so skillfully he was named chairman of the party's Rule 29 Committee, charged with reviewing rules and relationships affecting the total GOP structure.

The committee's work, under STEIGER, led to a more open Republican Party as he kept hammering at one theme: "* * * we want to make sure we don't exclude people from our party."

Above all, BILL STEIGER was an open, fair, good man.

He won accolades in life (Time magazine named him in 1974 as one of 200 men and women it said seemed destined to provide the United States with a new generation of leadership), and genuine tributes in death from political friends and foes alike.

Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill, the Massachusetts Democrat, called him "one of the brightest minds and most personable members of the House."

Not many leave such a constructive legacy in so few years. We mourn his

death; we are grateful for his lifetime's work that enhanced the image of the political leader at a time when it is sorely needed.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 7, 1978]

POLITICS—AS STEIGER PRACTICED IT

(By George F. Will)

Journalism, it has been said, often involves reporting "Mr. Smith is dead" to people who never knew that Mr. Smith was alive. But that often is important. The end of exemplary lives should not go unremarked.

Many Americans do not even know the name of their own congressman, and few Americans knew of the congressman from Wisconsin's Sixth District. But there are more than a few Republicans who, if asked why they are Republicans, would reply, briefly but sufficiently, "BILL STEIGER." They especially, but not they alone, know what the Republican Party, and the republic, lost when WILLIAM STEIGER died in his sleep at age 40.

When STEIGER came to Congress 12 years ago, he was the youngest member. When he died, he was the youngest looking member. But any tendency to think of him as "boyish" did not survive the bracing experience of matching wits and wills with him.

When, early this year, STEIGER submitted his amendment to lower taxation on capital gains, the Carter administration was ardently, not to say hysterically, opposed. But what STEIGER began resulted, after compromises, in rate reduction. It was an example of what one exceptional man, aroused and patient and right, can do.

I first met STEIGER early in this decade when the senator for whom I worked (Gordon Allott of Colorado) became interested in passing the military-pay proposals that were a prerequisite for the transition from conscription to all-volunteer armed forces. STEIGER had been at work on the problem for several years, and no one in Washington was more ready for battle.

The issues of conscription and capital gains, one early and one late in his career do not tell the full story of his career but they summarize the theme of his Republicanism. He was concerned with liberating the nation's productive energies including energy in the form of capital and, where possible, supplanting coercion with incentives.

Politics when done wrong, and when done right, can be a consuming profession. It is consuming for those whose eyes are always on higher office—who are consumed by ambition as by fire. More admirably, and more rarely, politics is consuming for those, like STEIGER, who do justice to their great work of making laws for a free people.

Congress has its share of members who coast, content to derive their satisfactions from the perquisites of office. But the minority side of the House Ways and Means Committee has recently been to Congress what Sugar Ray Robinson was to boxing: pound-for-pound, the best fighting force. And STEIGER, an initiating spirit, was among its best members.

It would be doing less than justice to STEIGER to say only that he was a superb legislative craftsman. He also resembled another bundle of useful

energy from the upper Midwest. It may seem like a contradiction in terms to speak of anyone as a "Republican Hubert Humphrey," but STEIGER exemplified what Humphrey called "the politics of joy." Plainly put, he loved his profession, and it showed.

What Burke said of a nation is true, too, of a profession: To be loved it must be lovely. Politics as STEIGER practiced it—intelligent, passionate and amused—was lovely. People who remember him as a paperboy in Oshkosh remember that he always aimed to be a congressman.

A few years ago he was offered a job in the private sector at a substantial increase in salary, and he was tempted to take it for his family's sake. His nine-year-old son frequently went up to Capitol Hill, quietly drawing pictures and watching his father work. Politics is a profession that often exacts a terrible price from families, but as a colleague said of STEIGER: "We all admired the father in him."

The capriciousness of fate moved Yeats to write:

Some think it a matter of course that chance should starve good men and bad advance.

It was not chance that advanced STEIGER to the front rank of his party and his profession. But chance has done what only chance could do: It has prevented him from completing what would have been one of the most distinguished careers Congress has known.



[From the Milwaukee Journal, Dec. 11, 1978]

STEIGER EMBODIED "WISCONSIN IDEA"

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In the grief and regret that followed the death of Rep. WILLIAM A. STEIGER last week, Sen. Gaylord Nelson probably came closest to describing the political essence of the young congressman from Oshkosh.

He spoke of STEIGER, 40, as the epitome of the progressive tradition in Wisconsin government and politics, a tradition that has brought the state a high degree of competence and a reputation for quality and integrity in public life.

For the most part, Wisconsin voters do not like demagogues, curmudgeons and wheeler-dealers. As one writer once said, Wisconsinites care little about the length of a man's hair but a great deal about whether he tells the truth.

THE WISCONSIN IDEA

The progressive tradition had its start around the turn of the century with Wisconsin's famed governor and senator, Robert M. LaFollette, Sr. Like STEIGER, LaFollette was a Republican, but both Republicans and Democrats in the state have embraced progressivism, or the Wisconsin Idea, as it is sometimes called.

As defined by H. Russell Austin in "The Wisconsin Story," that idea is "the theory that the state should be served by its best minds, its best trained experts in the planning of legislation and its administration."

Though that definition mostly encompassed the employment of private citizens to bolster the work of elected officials, the idea obviously applies to them as well.

Progressivism can be equated somewhat with innovation, and it has been practiced by public officials of varying shades in Wisconsin. Nelson and STEIGER represented different political parties, and often disagreed on issues, but Nelson could speak of STEIGER with respect and admiration.

"He came out of a tradition of having an open mind, of not having any ideological hangups that would cause him to be against something or for something because he was a Republican," Nelson said.

A classic example, he said, was STEIGER's leading role in the creation, and recently the defense, of the much maligned Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

STEIGER decided that the concept of guaranteed safety to workers was correct, and that it should be part of the cost of doing business. He also saw that some businessmen went to the extra expense of providing safety, but were forced to compete with those who did not.

"It was a posture for a Republican that would not be expected," Nelson said. "The knee jerk reaction is that if you're for free enterprise, you should keep your nose out of such things."

"He was open minded. He concluded that obviously the marketplace would not settle it. * * * And he had the guts because it surely was against the most conservative wing of his party."

STEIGER, of course, was not responsible for the many nonsensical rules that the federal government established to carry out the law. He criticized those while defending the law itself, and he did so with typical good humor. Hanging on his office wall were cartoons that ridiculed OSHA, one with the caption saying, "If you think OSHA is a town in Wisconsin, you're in trouble."

STEIGER always was open to ideas, and he allowed his staff a great deal of freedom to work on issues in which they had an interest. Some years ago, a staffer approached him to express concern about Vietnamese orphans and the need to do something to help.

That simple expression was enough. STEIGER freed the staffer to work on the problem and took a personal interest in it himself. It led to passage of legislation to help the orphans through voluntary agencies. STEIGER visited Vietnam twice to see how the programs were working.

It was typical. STEIGER surrounded himself with self-starters and gave them free rein. An indication of what his people thought of him shows in the fact that five of his six original staffers 12 years ago were still with him when he died.

If one is serious about it, the job of a congressman is extremely difficult and tiring, but no one ever heard STEIGER complain about the long hours or the drudgery. Last October, in those marathon closing days of the 95th Congress, he stayed up all night with Senate-House conferees working on the tax bill, even though he was not a member of the conference committee and had no vote.

He encouraged his constituents to write letters to him and personally read the more than 150 letters that arrived daily in his office. Once he told his

constituents in a newsletter not to let poor handwriting prevent them from writing to him.

In a tribute last week, columnist George F. Will compared STEIGER to the late Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota. Though they differed politically, Will pointed out that they both practiced the "politics of joy."

During the last Congress, more than one knowledgeable observer of the Senate and House expressed the opinion that Wisconsin—with its progressive tradition of honesty, service and integrity in politics—had the best congressional delegation of any of the 50 states.

There is no way to prove that, of course, but it unquestionably was a quality delegation, regardless of political persuasion. And the young man, from Oshkosh was a vital ingredient in the blend.

With the departure of BILL STEIGER, it may be many years before Wisconsin can again be said to have the best.



[From the Washington Post, Dec. 10, 1978]

"STUPENDOUS STEIGER"

(By David S. Broder)

It is a cliché in the political-reporting business that every one of us carries around in his head a list of stories he would have given his eye teeth to have written. Some are scoops on which you were beaten. Some are exposés for which you wish you could claim credit.

But the most uncomfortably remembered stories are those in which you might have said—but did not—that somebody was doing a helluva job in public office.

BILL STEIGER had done that kind of job ever since he came to the House of Representatives in 1966 as a 28-year-old freshman Republican from Oshkosh, Wis. He died last week, after a heart attack, at the wasteful age of 40. The sense of personal loss I share with his other friends and admirers is compounded by the regret that this column was not written earlier.

Not for BILL STEIGER's sake, but for the greater credibility it might have had with the young people for whom he had a very special concern. They are awfully cynical about politics and politicians these days. On the college campuses I have visited in the past few weeks, the students are very familiar with the real names and cases of Congressman Kickback and Senator Shakedown, and they ask, in world-weary voices, why the voters re-elect such men and why the Congress seats them.

They don't ask about the Bill Steigers of this world—and for a good reason. We haven't told them nearly as much about them. And we should have.

BILL STEIGER was a kid of 13 when he learned he had diabetes. He survived as long as he did by administering two shots of insulin a day. Despite the handicap, he was unstinting in the energy he poured into politics and public office. By the time he was an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin, his friend and classmate, John Bibby, recalls, "BILL had done so much in campus politics and state and national Young Republican politics, that our professors discussed things with him as they would with a political pro."

He graduated in June of 1960 and the following November was elected to the State Assembly. There, he became a leading proponent of a state open-housing law that was finally passed in his third term. It was a strange issue for a man from a district that then included 189 non-whites, but STEIGER was never a parochial politician.

In 1966, he ran against an incumbent Democratic congressman who had opposed federal open-housing laws and tried to make them an issue against STEIGER. The voters were wiser than the opponent thought and gave STEIGER the first of his seven House victories.

During his House service, Republicans were always in a minority. In that situation, it is tempting to vote against every program that is not desired by the dominant interests in your district.

STEIGER did not do that. He took the far harder course of searching out ways to shape basic legislation and push national policy in directions he thought it should go. In doing so, he became, as his Wisconsin Democratic colleague, Rep. David R. Obey (a legislator of comparable quality), said, "the Republican who was the most effective bridge between the parties in Congress."

Working with Sen. Harrison A. (Pete) Williams, Jr. (D-N.J.), he devised the compromise that permitted passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in 1970. Working with Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), he succeeded in 1971 in legislating the end of the draft and the start of the volunteer Army. Working with then Sen. Walter Mondale, he was instrumental in gaining passage of the program providing legal services to the poor.

STEIGER was a reformer who understood the importance of knowing the rules. He was an "institutional man," devoted to both the House and to the Republican Party, and he was willing to work for long hours against great odds to improve their functioning.

In the early 1970s, he took on the thankless assignment of chairing the party rules committee mandated to open the doors of the GOP to greater participation by minorities, women and youths—an effort that only now is beginning to bear fruit. In the mid-1970s he fought, unavailingly, for an overhaul of the House's antiquated committee structure.

This year, after eight years of prodding and pushing, he finally got the Congress to provide a more honest account of its own proceedings, by identifying in the Congressional Record those prepared speeches that were not actually delivered by the members.

As his reputation inside Congress grew, so did the opportunities to cash in by accepting lucrative outside job offers. Another friend, Rep. Barber B. Conable, Jr. (R-N.Y.), recalls that STEIGER turned down one industrial foundation post that would have doubled his congressional salary and provided financial security for his wife and young son.

Instead, he stayed at his work. In leading the successful fight this year for reduction in capital-gains taxes, over the opposition of President Carter and the Democratic congressional leadership, he won acclaim from financial circles that had managed to overlook his earlier constructive works in the social policy area.

"Stupendous STEIGER," The Wall Street Journal called him, and he accepted the joshing of his conservative colleagues about his new fame with

the same smiling equanimity with which he had endured their earlier jibes about being the author of the business-hated OSHA legislation. Methodically, as always, STEIGER used his new role as a sought-after speaker on the national GOP fund-raising circuit as a way to mobilize support for his next major goal: the nomination and election of his friend George Bush to the presidency.

STEIGER was a man of exceptional talent, drive and integrity. Said his grieving friend Obey: "In the 20 years since we started debating on the steps of the Wisconsin Student Union, I never knew [him] to take a cheap shot."

But there are more than a few Bill Steigers in politics. It would honor his memory if we occasionally wrote about them—before they died.



[From the Washington Star, Dec. 8, 1978]

STEIGER KNEW THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S PROBLEM

(By James Reston)

The sudden death of Rep. WILLIAM STEIGER of Wisconsin at the age of 40 has been marked here by an exceptional outpouring of respect and affection for one of the most promising young men in the Congress of the United States.

Mainly this was a reaction to the magic of his personality, the gifts of his energy and intelligence, and the shock of his premature death, but there was something beyond that.

It was not merely that BILL STEIGER arrived here 12 years ago as the youngest member of Congress or that he advanced by diligence to a leading position on the Ways and Means Committee. It is, in a way, that he was a symbol of the problems of youth in a Republican Party dominated by old men.

The point should not be misunderstood, STEIGER was effective in the House of Representatives, not because like Jack Kennedy at his own age he had presidential ambitions, but because he didn't. He thought he had plenty to learn and plenty of time. He studied and learned the cards in the congressional deck, and the mystifying techniques of the legislative process. And he worked tirelessly on the substance of taxes and the military security of the nation, and the internal struggles of his party.

I cannot pretend to be wholly objective about this modest and engaging young man and his lovely wife, Janet Dempsey Steiger. My eldest son, Richard, was his roommate at the University of Wisconsin, and best man at their wedding, but some times you have to be personal to be understood.

Nobody can say that the Republican Party held him back. His qualities of mind and character were recognized. He was able to take the lead in the battle to reduce the capital gains tax this year and he played an important role in the struggle between Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan at the 1976 Republican presidential nominating convention, but there are limits on the ambitions of youth in the Republican Party that do not exist to the same extent in the Democratic Party.

In congressional politics, the Republicans have been in the minority in both the House and Senate for 41 out of the last 45 years. Only in the 80th Congress from 1947-49 and the 83rd from 1953-55 have they been in control. Getting to the top for a young Republican on Capitol Hill can easily be a life-

time career, even the discouraging career of a very long lifetime, which STEIGER didn't have.

In presidential politics, the outlook for young Republicans these days is more bleak, and even for middle-aged Republicans like Howard Baker of Tennessee, the Republican leader of the Senate, or Mac Mathias of Maryland or George Bush of Texas, former head of the CIA and ambassador to the United Nations and Peking, the prospects are not very good.

Even now the Republicans are still looking primarily, not to the rising generation in their 40s or their 50s but to the familiar figures of the past, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford and John Connally, now all in their middle 60s.

It was clear to BILL STEIGER and some of the other young hopefuls of the GOP that another divisive battle between the elders of the party for the presidential nomination of 1980 could only hurt the Republican chances of recapturing the White House.

There was even some vague talk about trying to organize a midterm convention to test the strength, not of the Steigers or the men of his generation, but to rally behind Baker or Bush or one of the middle-aged Republican moderates, but nothing came of this and STEIGER had given up the idea before he died.

For it was clear to him as it still is to most other Republican leaders that the decisive instruments of power in the Republican Party still lie with the dominant figures of the last Republican convention, particularly with Reagan, and that the only hope of younger challengers lies in the primary elections.

It never occurred to STEIGER to be one of the challengers, but the thought of change, of debating the issue within the party before staggering into another battle with the same candidates who divided the GOP and lost the last election, was at least a fleeting notion that he didn't live to pursue.

At least, he believed the generation of Republican leaders should be heard before the party loitered down into another election with the same cast of characters, and it's still a pretty good idea.

Mr. CONABLE. Madam Speaker, we have all been not only saddened, but surprised that one who is so young and so full of life was taken from us so abruptly. BILL STEIGER has as many friends as anyone in this House. He had a tremendous impact on this institution and on the lives of everyone with whom he came in contact. We try to find comfort in the thoughts of great writers. I have been looking at Shakespeare, whom BILL loved and whom his wife loved, and I found a few appropriate comments, such as from Julius Caesar:

His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, this was a man.

Or from Hamlet:

He was a man. Take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again.

Remembering BILL as one of my closest friends, and how we used to argue about issues of importance to us, because he never compro-

mised his views or pretended to think other than what he thought, I find in Hamlet also the quotation :

Rightly to be great is not to stir without great argument.

Indeed, BILL participated in all the great arguments of this body. It reflected the greatness of his industry, his spirit, and of his intellect.

There was nothing that passed on the floor of this House of which he did not have understanding and very few important events occurred here without his participation, but of course, the things that made BILL special to us all were his human qualities, not his remarkable intellect, not the quickness of his comprehension, not the prodigious industry with which he approached everything, but the fact that he had a human relationship with everyone with whom he came in contact.

I used to have a problem with him as ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, because frequently when some earnest discussion was going on his cheerful laugh would disrupt the proceedings. He found joy in everything. Joy was part of his life. It was one of the vital qualities that made him such a special human being to all of us. That capacity for joy was reflected in his dealings not only with us, but with everyone and with his family. We know his family. They were part of his life. Many a time young Billy has come up here and been on this floor; Billy, his son, who is so bright and shows so much promise. Many a time he came to our committee with a decorum unusual for one his age. He used to observe the passing scene there in the committee and draw his artistic impressions.

I am sure that we are well aware that as busy as BILL STEIGER was (in fact, he had six projects going at any given time), he must have had to spend a comparatively modest portion of his time with his family in order to accomplish all his public obligations. Yet the quality of that relationship with his family was an inspiration to us all. That is a human being. That is a man who keeps first things first. This was a man whose intellectual qualities did not obscure the remarkable character and understanding of a first-class person.

Well, I wish I had prepared remarks so that I could do him more eloquent justice, and yet BILL never had prepared remarks on anything. He never needed them.

I regret that many people who cannot be here today are going to have to be bulleted in this Record.

They are going to have to be recorded as paying him tribute in absentia, although I am sure their absence—and I have a tremendous

number of statements here that I wish to put in the Record—does not reflect any lack of respect but the condition of this early Congress and the pressures that take them elsewhere when this is the only order of the day. It is a little ironic that so many of them must be bulleted as a result of BILL's work here. His absolute insistence on honesty means that the record is going to show they were not present.

Madam Speaker, this is just a passing remark about the sort of work he did here. How typical of him to have made a significant contribution in insuring that the record of this House would reflect honestly what transpired here. He believed in openness. His life was as open as it was full. He did not compromise.

He believed in maximum participation, and he was a participator in everything that came along.

He believed in his fellow man, and that was reflected in the human relationships he had with everyone around him, whether they were political friend or foe, whether they agreed with him or whether they disagreed with him. He could be, as has already been said by the distinguished dean of the Wisconsin delegation, a man who disagreed without being disagreeable.

The Nation has lost a major asset. We are all aware of that. We have lost a friend. That frequently, in our own minds, obscures the sad and tragic loss to the Nation, and many of us have been feeling so sorry for our personal loss that we have forgotten to weep for the Nation. But let us be glad he was among us. Let us be glad that he had the chance to do the things he did. Let us be grateful that his life touched ours.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I think I knew BILL STEIGER longer than anyone else in this Chamber. I knew him for more than 20 years.

BILL and I went to college together. We argued all the way through college. We debated and worked with each other for 4 years in the Wisconsin State Legislature, and we debated and worked with each other here in the House for many years.

A lot has been written about BILL STEIGER. Most of what has been written has been about the issues with which he was associated, for example, the capital gains issue of last session. But my best memories of him are personal.

Lest this session become too morose, which is something that BILL certainly would not have wanted, I would like to tell just a couple stories about BILL. One is about the first time I ever saw him.

BILL came to the University of Wisconsin 2 years before I did. He came as a freshman; I came as a transfer student as a junior. On the first day of classes in constitutional law, I saw BILL STEIGER for the first time. It was a scene right out of "Paper Chase," if any of the Members have ever seen that television series.

We had a professor by the name of David Fellman, who is a distinguished professor of constitutional law. BILL was at that time already a "big man on campus." His father had been president of the board of regents of the university, and Professor Fellman was a dry wit.

The first day of classes, BILL walked into that constitutional law class about 3 minutes late, and Professor Fellman looked over at him—and said, "Mr. STEIGER, ordinarily we would have an usher escort you to your seat. Unfortunately, our carnations have not yet arrived."

BILL cringed, looked up at Professor Fellman, and said, "Sir, I get the message" and proceeded to his seat.

That was the first time I met BILL STEIGER.

We would debate on the steps of the Student Union. BILL representing the Young Republicans and I a member of the Democrats. In 1958, the then State Senator Gaylord Nelson was running for Governor. BILL was taking the position that the incumbent Governor, Vernon Thomson, who we all knew later as a Member of this House, should be retained as Governor. But BILL kept having a slip of the tongue and he kept referring to then State Senator Nelson as "Governor" Nelson. He did it three times during the debate, much to his chagrin. Afterward, when Gaylord Nelson had in fact been elected Governor, he remarked to us that that slip of the tongue should have told him that God was telling him something that he did not want to hear.

I also recall, as does the gentleman from New York, the tremendous loyalty that BILL had to his family. I know of no one in this House who showed a greater appreciation for his own family than did BILL STEIGER. His love for his wife, Janet, and his son, Bill, was obvious to anyone who watched him.

I must say that I have a tremendous sense of personal loss at BILL's death, because our careers did parallel so much. And we compared views and votes often. He was elected to the State legislature in 1960. I followed him 2 years later. I have a picture hanging on my wall of Governor Knowles signing bill 797A, which organized and stream-

lined higher education in the State of Wisconsin. BILL and I coauthored that bill. That bill would not have become law were it not for BILL STEIGER, and the State is better off because it did become law. Wisconsin today has the finest system of vocational and technical education in the country. One of the reasons for that is because BILL STEIGER worked so hard to establish that system. He was one of the prime movers in the legislature in the creation of that system. In 1963, the State assembly turned down the fair housing bill by a one-vote margin. In 1965 we passed it. In no small measure due to the efforts of BILL STEIGER. I think we can safely say that, without the efforts of BILL STEIGER, that legislation would never have been passed in the State assembly, it never would have passed the State Senate, and it would not have become law.

BILL left the Wisconsin State Legislature 2 years before I did and came here. When I followed 2 years later, I received a note of greeting from him which welcomed me aboard, and he said, "Dave, you will learn one thing here: This ain't Madison!" He was certainly right, and I am sure Wisconsin's two newest Members of the congressional delegation will learn that, as I did.

We all know the record mentioned by the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Wisconsin, the legislative record, of BILL STEIGER. There would have been no change in the capital gains taxation without BILL STEIGER's driving effort. There probably would have been no change in the draft laws if it had not been for BILL STEIGER. I think BILL's most important legislative accomplishment was the recognition that the workers were not sufficiently protected on the job against both dangerous machinery and dangerous chemicals. That is why he coauthored the legislation creating the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which, with all of its faults, is a civilizing influence on the American workplace today. And BILL did not just fight to have that legislation become law. He fought to make certain that that agency would perform in a sensible, responsible manner after it was created, and he has had much to do, I think, with the gradual evolution of OSHA into a sensible rather than a nitpicking organization.

But, those things do not define his importance either to this body, to Wisconsin, or to the country. It seems to be that BILL STEIGER's main importance is that he was an institutional man. He understood that institutions—management institutions, labor unions, political parties, churches, family—he understood that those institutions and

many others contribute to the strength and security of this society and this country, and he did everything he could to try to hold important institutions in our society together.

He did everything he could to make this institution function more efficiently, with his work on the Bolling committee, for instance. I will remain forever grateful for the fact that he was one of only three minority supporters of the original ethics reform package which I brought to the floor in 1976. He understood that the proper role of the minority party was not to savage the majority, but to look for constructive alternatives and to define better alternatives. Much to our chagrin, he did that often, and the Nation was better off for it. So was the minority party and so, I submit, was the majority party.

His importance to Wisconsin was that he was able to serve as a bridge between the two political parties. We understood that BILL STEIGER was fair, that he would keep his word, and that he would be constructive, so—in plain language—we simply trusted BILL STEIGER as virtually everyone here in this House did whoever dealt with him.

For the last week I have been ill. And over this last weekend as I lay in my bed I tried to think of what BILL would want said about him. I think what he would want said about him more than anything else is something which Dave Broder said about him in that magnificent article he wrote about BILL after his death. What Broder said and what I think BILL would want said was that BILL, in a sense, was not unique. There is no question about it—he was good, he was able, and we all loved him. But part of the reason I still like this job and part of the reason I still like this institution is because there are a lot of people in it who are like BILL STEIGER, who do work very hard for their own vision of what ought to happen in this country, and who do their job here with integrity, with passion, and with decency.

I think that is what BILL STEIGER would prefer that we say about him, that he shared so many goals which so many of us here in this place have. The main quality he brought to this place was decency and his lack of cynicism about politics and the political system that makes this country run. He did not much care for the “cheap shot artists” we all run across in politics from time to time, who try to oversimplify issues and try to tell the American people that the issues are much more easy to solve than in fact they are.

I think he would have agreed with President Carter in his State of the Union message when he said 2 days ago that:

The problems we face today are different in character from those that confronted earlier generations of Americans. They are more subtle, more complex, and more interrelated.

I think the story of BILL STEIGER's political life is that he tried to communicate that to the people of this country and to the people of his State at every opportunity. I think most of all, he would want to be remembered for the faith he had in the political system of this country. I think that the greatest loss that we have is that with his death we have lost an individual who brought a positive rather than a negative vision to politics.

And, much as I miss him as a friend and as a colleague, I will miss him for that reason also, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, the sudden death of BILL STEIGER last December 3, sent shock waves through this House and brought forth an outpouring of tributes, fond reminiscences, and well-deserved praise for our good friend and beloved colleague. Those of us fortunate enough to have known and worked with him and members of the media who had long observed his superb leadership wrote and spoke of him in terms that were at once sorrowful and laudatory.

I just want to add a few comments to all that has been said and written about BILL.

BILL STEIGER was truly a "man of the House." His energy and idealism were directed toward reforms of the House as well as to substantive legislation.

The Wall Street Journal once referred to him as "Stupendous STEIGER." He took a lot of good-natured ribbing about this, but he knew that the friendly kidding was based on genuine respect for and love of a man we all know was truly "stupendous" in his ability, his dedication, and his love of this country. The "Steiger Amendment" was not merely another economic bill—it was a symbol of hope, a brilliantly perceptive piece of legislation that recognized that Americans have always wanted to fight their way out of economic difficulties rather than give in to them. His understanding of the way our system works was reflected in that amendment.

His congressional district included Ripon, the birthplace of the Republican Party. I find it fitting that a man who represented all that is best in his party should represent the place of its birth.

We respected BILL. We admired him. We praise him for his intelligence, his ability, and his energy. But most of all, we genuinely loved him dearly.

His wife, Janet, and his son, Billy, have suffered an irreparable loss, as has the Nation.

Mr. BOLLING. Mr. Speaker, I had the very great privilege of working very closely with BILL STEIGER for 2 years in 1973 and 1974. I had hardly known him before that, and when I had the opportunity to chair a select committee dealing with the organization of the committee structure of the House, he was one of the Members selected. I soon came to understand that I was rarely fortunate as the Democrat chairman of a bipartisan committee to have such a man on the committee. Later on in the process I selected him to work with the gentleman from Maryland, Paul Sarbanes, as the drafter of that effort which, as most of the Members know, failed at least very substantially but succeeded in part. But BILL STEIGER was one of the ones who insisted that we try to do something important rather than something that was patchwork. He felt so strongly about the institution that he wanted to come as close as was reasonably possible to doing a really first-rate job.

He had, I think, the qualities of the perfect public servant, and I have not had the privilege of being around very many like that.

I would like to associate myself with the extraordinary fine remarks that have been made by others before in saying that in my mind his loss in early December was a tragic loss not only for his district, for his State, and for his country, but also for the world because he was a small "d" democratic Republican who understood government from all points of view. He had one of the finest minds I have ever seen. I had the privilege of watching him with his then quite little boy come into our committee, and, as the gentleman from New York said, with extraordinary decorum for one so young, the little boy and he would visit together as the young man discovered the peculiarities of the committee system of the House of Representatives.

It was amazing to me that somebody could do what BILL STEIGER did, having the range of a very gentle, sweet individual human being and the force of a giant in debate and the parliamentary process. I think he is one of the finest people who ever served in this institution. I will miss him personally and I will miss him professionally. To his lovely wife and wonderful son I can only give my heartfelt sympathy and best wishes.

Mr. HAMMERSCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker—

It is an old belief
That on some solemn shore,
Beyond the sphere of grief,
Dear friends shall meet once more.

—J. G. LOCKHART.

Mr. Speaker, the death of one of the most promising young men in Congress, WILLIAM A. STEIGER, came as a great shock. It is with profound sorrow that I stand here and relate that his passing represents a severe blow to the Republican Party and a great loss to this House and to our Nation.

I can vividly recall when the two of us came to Congress in 1967, and how he was often mistaken for a page because of his "boyish looks." Actually, this slim blond looked more like a boy just elected to his college freshman class than a man just elected to be the Republican Representative from Wisconsin's Sixth District.

The fact is that even as a boy his goal was to be a U.S. Congressman. As I recollect, he had been interested in politics for as long as he could remember, and actually began getting involved in politics delivering literature as a page at Oshkosh Republican Headquarters. These early political activities were performed despite his personal battle with a severe childhood illness, diabetes.

In high school, he held a number of school offices. Young STEIGER was Wisconsin's representative to Boy's Nation and a national officer in the Young Republicans. It was still in high school that he was awarded the Young American Medal for Service, an honor bestowed on him by President Eisenhower during White House ceremonies in 1957.

He graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in economics, and the same year ran successfully for the State assembly from his hometown of Oshkosh, followed by two more successful tenures. During this period, BILL labored long and hard to pass a State open housing law which was finally passed during his third term in office. Participating with older lawmakers became routine for him since when he was just 22 he was the second youngest committee chairman in history of that State legislature.

Recognized as an eloquent speaker, hard worker, and skilled draftsman of legislation, in 1966 he was able to run for the congressional seat against the incumbent Democrat in Wisconsin's Sixth District, which gave him his first of seven victories. It would be impossible in the time allotted to enumerate all of the significant legislative

enactments that bear his name or on which he left his mark, however, let me stress that he worked tirelessly on the issues of taxes, military security, and the unification of the party he loved so well. He was renowned for seeking out innovative solutions to old problems, cutting deep at their cause. BILL STEIGER will go down in history for his successful fight for reduction in capital gains taxes over the opposition of the present administration and the House leadership. Although he fought hard for his tax plan to stimulate capital formation, he supported the final compromise since he unselfishly always put the national interest above his own.

Through his career his dedication and good sense of humor served him well and he employed his recently found notoriety fundraising for his party. But during this exposure he always managed to remain levelheaded and soundly rejected any proposal to seek higher office.

Even those who disagreed with his methods of doing things were fascinated by his continued persistence. He worked long hours and sacrificed valued times with his wife, Janet, and son, Bill, Junior, in the service of his country. Those who ever had the chance to watch BILL with his son will fondly recall that these were precious moments to him.

On a personal note, I can recall many luncheon engagements with BILL and our good friend, George Bush, a fellow freshman in the 90th Congress. It was at these meetings that I learned just how much he enjoyed being a Congressman. He had a deep appreciation and love for his country and great insight into the work that needed to be accomplished in order to maintain our present national stature in the world. He enjoyed his chosen vocation in life, that was obvious, and cherished it because he knew that no other career would offer him the chance to help people as much as this one.

Lastly, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy to Janet Steiger and to Bill, Junior. Through my acquaintance with BILL's brother, Don, and his lovely family, who reside within the borders of my own congressional district in Arkansas, I am aware of how deeply he will be missed.

Mr. JONES of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, this special order is a very difficult one for me because it is about a man who was a close personal friend of mine, as well as someone for whom I had the highest personal regard, respect, and admiration for his professional accomplishments.

I had written some remarks for BILL STEIGER, but I prefer not to give those because, in reading them over, they are simply a lot of

words and they do not really capture the vibrancy and the vitality and the warmth and honesty that those of us who knew BILL STEIGER knew really represented him.

BILL STEIGER was a man who was really driven by excellence in virtually everything he did professionally, personally, and in every other way. He made a very significant impact on the House of Representatives and I think on the Nation as a whole.

He was a man who could not be neatly compartmentalized in some philosophical or partisan cubicle. He was a man who diligently and exhaustively searched out the truth as best he could find it, who sought the facts from all different sources of the political and philosophical spectrum.

Madam Speaker, I think BILL STEIGER is remembered for two legislative accomplishments. One was very early in his career, about in 1970 or so, in his second or third term. He was one of the principal architects of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Act. This was considered by most to be a liberal accomplishment. In the last Congress I had the pleasure of working very closely with BILL in helping to fashion the tax legislation to get this country moving in the direction of putting more capital into private investments and equity securities, providing more capital formation, and specifically to get into law BILL STEIGER's reduction in the capital gains tax, which he believed very deeply was necessary to get this country strengthened economically. I guess that was considered a conservative accomplishment.

How could BILL STEIGER be noted for both a liberal and a conservative accomplishment? I think it goes back to what I said earlier. He was not straitjacketed by philosophical perceptions. He really sought out the truth in the best way he could.

I imagine the full measure of BILL STEIGER cannot be summed up in his legislative accomplishments or in his professional career. One really had to know him as a man to appreciate his enormous capacity for accomplishment.

I came onto the Committee on Ways and Means at the same time that BILL STEIGER did, 4 years ago. He had talked about the need for openness, the need to involve more of the American people in the process of government, particularly the legislative process.

The two of us took hearings out on the road, first in Oklahoma and then in Wisconsin. We held tax hearings. As I understand it, that was the first time that field hearings were held among members of the Committee on Ways and Means. BILL STEIGER went into that

endeavor with all of the vitality, enthusiasm, and energy at his command.

I know of one person in Oklahoma City who was present when we had hearings there. He was a businessman whom I had never met. He had never been active in politics. He just came down, and he stood in the back of the room. He was captivated by the process and captivated by BILL STEIGER. As a result, he stayed there all afternoon, never said anything, but listened to all the hearings. From then on, he became very active in local government, sharing his advice and comments at the national level and getting more people involved in the political process. He became enthused because of the contagious enthusiasm which BILL STEIGER displayed that day in Oklahoma City.

I have many fond memories and recollections of BILL STEIGER. A lot of them deal with his family because we were neighbors on Capitol Hill. His son, Billy, is a year older than our older son. I can see BILL STEIGER and Billy coming down the alley at the height of things, when all the pressure was on to pass the tax bill, and most people were scurrying around getting votes and preparing speeches and what have you.

At that time BILL STEIGER went home to take Billy to the local drugstore to get an ice cream cone and to play with Billy before he came back and did his homework here that night. He always made time for his family. That was of prime importance to him.

At one time the kids in the neighborhood, the little 6-, 7-, 8-, and 9-year-old kids, decided they wanted to have a football team. They started lobbying different fathers in the neighborhood, and it was BILL STEIGER who came up with the T-shirts, and the "Steiger Tigers" became the football team of Capitol Hill. The kids looked to BILL STEIGER for that kind of support.

Again, there are many fond memories I have of BILL STEIGER and of Janet, who was his full partner in all he did. I know that he was so dedicated to politics and to public service. A few years ago he was offered a tremendous job at a tremendous salary, many times more than what he could receive here in the House of Representatives; and he turned it down at a time when he could have provided much better for his family, much more security and a much better life for his family; but that was not his motivation.

His motivation was to work within this institution, as has already been said, to work within the established institutions of this country in a way to improve society as a whole and not BILL STEIGER as an

individual. He contributed so much to this country; he will be missed very deeply. But those of us who knew him, while we are saddened by his loss—and I know that his family will miss him so much in so many ways—it is also a time of happiness for us because he touched our lives in a very personal way and made us better for having known him.

Mr. McCLORY. Madam Speaker, as the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. Jones) indicated, who likewise is a neighbor of the Steigers on Capitol Hill, BILL STEIGER, Jan Steiger, and Billy are our next-door neighbors, so we came to know them personally in a very intimate way, and to love and respect them. We have so many personal accounts that I think my remarks, as brief as they will be here today, would be of a personal nature of the individual and the person of BILL STEIGER.

Madam Speaker, the passing of Congressman WILLIAM STEIGER of Wisconsin on Monday, December 4, the House of Representatives and the entire Nation experienced a great and unexpected loss. From a purely personal standpoint, I should add that my wife, Doris, and I have lost a close personal friend, who was our next-door neighbor on Constitution Avenue.

Congressman BILL STEIGER and his wife, Janet, and their small son, Billy, represent a closely knit family where each reflects the love and devotion which contribute to a perfect household. We have great affection for our neighbors and have watched 9-year-old Billy Steiger develop. At the same time we have observed Jan and BILL STEIGER as they have molded their family ties and developed their individual and joint interests while establishing a permanent and substantial home in Washington—where Congressman BILL STEIGER continued to represent the Sixth Congressional District of Wisconsin.

In my view, Congressman BILL STEIGER has been one of the most resourceful, articulate, and useful Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. His thoughtful analyses of the problems and needs of our Nation were translated into logical and attainable legislative solutions. He was eloquent and persuasive in debate and his following on the House Ways and Means Committee and in the House of Representatives was substantial.

The “Steiger amendment” to reduce capital gains taxes for all Americans and to help provide incentives for capital formations for new plants and equipment, and for more jobs for more Americans, produced the framework for the tax reform legislation of 1978, which

has benefited virtually every taxpayer in the Nation—and has contributed to improving the American economy.

My wife, Doris, and I were privileged, a few months ago to attend BILL STEIGER's 40th birthday party where joy was coupled with expectations of hope for a future life of public service and family relationships—which had dominated the experiences of this 40-year-old youth during most of his adult years.

Madam Speaker, it can be appropriately observed, that the longest human lives are not always the most productive or rewarding. In the case of BILL STEIGER, his earthly years were relatively short but the importance of his life and the great meaning that it has had for all of us who have come to know him is a priceless and treasured gift for which we are eternally grateful.

Doris and I have a great respect and love for BILL STEIGER, Janet Steiger, and young Billy. We sense that love deeply at this hour as we reflect upon Congressman BILL STEIGER and his life, and as we extend to his wonderful dad, Carl Steiger, and to all members of his family our affection and deepest sympathy.

Mr. MAGUIRE. Madam Speaker, there are occasions when prose is inadequate and only poetry really can serve. Some of the eloquent statements we have heard in the past few minutes approach that. The great life events—marriage, the birth of a child, death—are times when the edges of a larger reality break through the complacent routine of our daily assumptions and overshadow the descriptions and legislative arguments normally spoken here. But I am not a poet and my halting language in memory and honor of BILL STEIGER will have to serve.

Though our specific objectives were sometimes opposed, BILL STEIGER and I shared common interests and goals, including a commitment to young people through our work over the years with the Young Men's Christian Association. He came here 8 years before my own arrival, but we were the same age, shaped by many of the same circumstances—the country's emergence from McCarthyism; the battle for civil rights and equality of opportunity at home; the struggle to define a new concept of America's role in peace abroad; the growing belief that citizens and their government are not opponents, but have a mutual stake in this Nation's future and must act for each other, not just for themselves.

Nearly two decades ago, when BILL STEIGER and I had barely begun our majority, President Kennedy electrified the country and ini-

tiated a new enthusiasm for public service by declaring that we should, "Ask not what your country can do for you: Ask what you can do for your country." BILL STEIGER exemplified that kind of public service. As the Washington Post noted in its most generous editorial after his death, he was all the more effective because his eye remained genuinely fixed on sound policy and the general good rather than his own advancement.

And I think it is fair to say that despite occasional policy differences, we shared a core of common beliefs based on that focus: A belief, among others, that workers should not be exposed to accidental death, dismemberment, or deadly illness simply because they must work in order to eat; a belief that effective employment training and placement should be made available to preserve the American tradition of upward mobility for the growing ranks of poor; a belief that the tax system can be made both more just and more responsive; a belief that all students, whether they come from middle or lower income families, should be assured financing for the best college education for which they qualify; a belief that regulation, like all government, can be made more effective as well as less burdensome and intrusive if market competition and accountability are promoted and the many ways to achieve social goals are more carefully weighed.

Last session these beliefs converged when I had the privilege of coauthoring a measure with BILL STEIGER which we both worked on a great many months. I witnessed then at first hand the energy, the knowledge, the personal and political sensitivity, and the care and seriousness with which he approached the task of legislation. Our successive Steiger-Maguire education bills were designed to improve fair access to higher education by revising the guaranteed student loan program to remove designed-in barriers to efficient financing of significant portions of college costs by private capital. I am continuing to refine those bills for reintroduction, since I regard them as my own special Steiger legacy.

Madam Speaker, at the time of his funeral one of the Wisconsin papers began its lead story by stating that BILL STEIGER "always looked too young in life and was certainly too young for death." That youthful appearance masked unusual integrity, as well as unusual powers of analysis, persuasion, and personal charm.

BILL STEIGER was a bridgebuilder, credible to many factions, ready to talk with all of them, always able to transcend partisan viewpoints in pursuit of his view of the public interest. Though he went to the State legislature before he had time to begin law school, he was a

better lawyer than most lawyers. He was a better Congressman than most of us, and he was a better person than most people I know. We can ask no more than that someday the same might be said of any of us.

Time may heal all wounds, but wounds like this heal slowly. BILL STEIGER's loss was a loss for all of us—Republicans, Democrats, all Americans. But especially to Janet and Billy Steiger: May you somehow find strength at this time of grief and enormous loss. I wish you all speed in the healing process that has now begun.

Mr. FRENZEL. Madam Speaker, there is no adequate or satisfying way to participate in a memorial to BILL STEIGER. Even though BILL had packed a couple of lifetimes' worth of achievement into a 40-year span, his passing, by any standard, was premature, and a crushing blow to all of us here.

In this body, we were proud to call him colleague. A few of us who had the privilege to work with him on committees, or on the legislative procedures in which he was so interested, enjoyed the special pleasure of seeing a legislator's legislator at work.

In fact, to serve with BILL was to begin to be dependent on him. His capacity for work was nearly boundless. His research was painstaking. His logic was clean and consistent. Many of you must have felt the same irresistible urge that I always had to "let BILL STEIGER do it," because, whatever it was, he always did it so well.

BILL also had a rare ability either to insult or inspire his colleagues to do a little better. With wide-eyed innocence, he would say, "You know better than that"; or, "You, of all people, should understand this point." Usually I did not, but I worked a lot harder to know his point better, or to understand it, sometimes because he shamed me into it, and sometimes simply because I thought he expected it of me. And I certainly did not want to fail to line up to his expectations.

BILL was infrequently wrong but even less frequently in doubt. He took strong positions because he had strong beliefs. Capital formation was important to him. So was an honest Congressional Record. So was the "volunteer" military. So were a myriad of other issues. But despite his strong feelings he knew when to compromise and how to keep his bills going. He never preferred to have an issue rather than a bill.

The Sixth District of Wisconsin got more than it's money's worth from BILL STEIGER. I have watched him perform here and at home. He gave the constituency its full measure and then some. And he

told it like it was. He was as patient with his constituents as he was with us, but when he felt strongly he never backed down to them, either. Few of us ever took as much heat at home over anything as BILL did over OSHA. He admitted to the failings of the agency and he worked hard to improve it, but he never let his constituency or us forget his consistent devotion to safety in the workplaces of the Nation.

I remember BILL as a prodigious worker, but also as a man of great good humor. He took his work seriously, but never himself.

The death of any colleague is like a personal family loss here. We mourn, and then we close ranks and keep on marching, but life is never quite the same. There will be a fine, new Representative elected to his seat, but no one can replace BILL STEIGER. Our best consolation is that we were so lucky to know him and love.

Ruth's and my deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Jan, and his son, Billy, and the rest of his family of which he was so proud. We will remember them in our prayers and in our hearts.

Madam Speaker, this country has lost one of its finest public servants. This House has lost one of its finest Members. And we have lost one of our finest friends. We will best honor his memory by never doing less than our best, because that was the standard which BILL STEIGER set for himself, and left as a challenge to all of us who follow.

Mr. JACOBS. Madam Speaker, when I die, who will cry? In the case of our dearly beloved and departed colleague, BILL STEIGER, I think the answer to that question is: Everybody who ever knew him.

Even those who opposed BILL STEIGER, even his opponents through the years, I cannot imagine that his untimely passing would not have touched them in a very personal and sorrowful way, as it has touched all of us here. When I think of the untimely death of BILL STEIGER, I inevitably associate it with the untimely death of President Kennedy.

Adlai Stevenson said, in a eulogy to John F. Kennedy, that he was so "contemporary a man, so intense a participant in the great events of our day, that he seemed the very essence of the vitality which is life itself."

I do not think that BILLY STEIGER was ever bored. And there is something to be said for the relationship of being bored and being boring. It did not make any difference how intense the debate, if a flash of wit crossed BILLY STEIGER's mind—and the word "if" is

improperly used there, because inevitably it would—he would give vent to it. Even if it were a split second, his face would light up and he would acknowledge the joke, especially if it were a joke upon himself. You could shoot a zinger to BILLY during the debate, and if you got him, no one in the room would laugh so uproariously as BILLY STEIGER. And in an instant he was right back on the serious track of profound debate.

When President Kennedy had died, Mrs. Kennedy was quoted as saying that the thing which occurred to her most in association was the quotation from the musical “Camelot”—“Don’t let it be forgot. * * *”

As my wife, former Congresswoman Martha Keys, and I learned of the death of our dear friend, BILLY STEIGER, we remarked to each other that the song that would not go away was the American ballad “We Shall Miss Your Bright Eyes and Sweet Smile. * * *”

Mr. CLAUSEN. Madam Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the late Representative from the Sixth District of Wisconsin, Hon. WILLIAM A. STEIGER. It is with great sorrow that I mourn the death of this outstanding and extraordinary colleague.

We will always remember BILL STEIGER as a brilliant man who had one of the most incisive minds in the Congress. He was dedicated to using his seat on the Ways and Means Committee to make the tax code a contributor to creative capitalism. He took the lead, and everyone in the country knew he was the champion of capital gains improvements that caused the committees, the Congress, and the President to take note of his sincerity and commitment to provide incentives for capital investment in our free enterprise system.

Having been raised on a dairy farm in California, I have always been sympathetic to the special requirements of our dairymen. Coming from Wisconsin—America’s Dairyland—BILL STEIGER was their staunch protector and defender, and will be long remembered for his concern and activity on their behalf.

Had BILL STEIGER left us only the legacy of his outstanding professional contribution, we would certainly regret the loss of a fine colleague. But he also left with those who knew him a lasting memory of his enthusiasm and instilled in us a deep appreciation of his character. As George Will aptly described him in the Washington Post, he was a man who “plainly loved his profession.”

If ever there was a man qualified to be President of the United States, it was BILL STEIGER. I told him I wanted to be his running

mate if he ever chose to run. We would kid each other about this combination, but I, for one, was not kidding. I would have given my all to elect him President.

His quality of sincere and unselfish interest in the needs of this country, that will be deeply missed and cannot be replaced. To know him was to truly love him. I believe my colleagues in both parties will attest that the caliber of his leadership and his integrity enhanced and dignified the efforts of this body. To Janet Steiger and their son, Bill, Jr., I extend my deepest sympathy.

Mr. LEDERER. Madam Speaker, we pause today in the business of the House to honor and remember one of our most dedicated colleagues—BILL STEIGER of Wisconsin.

I had the enjoyable privilege of serving with BILL on the Ways and Means Committee. I do not think that there has ever been a Member of Congress who enjoyed his job more. He never tired of the legislative process; he was always ready and willing to work with you to find solutions to problems of our great Nation.

I will remember BILL STEIGER as a man with a healthy sense of humor about himself, the Congress, and the rest of the Washington whirl. And yet, this self-deprecating humor was finely balanced by a constructive and dedicated commitment to our tasks here on the Hill. His job as a Congressman was his passion; his life.

His passing is a loss both to the Congress, and to his party, and the Nation. But, above all, I have lost a good and dear friend. BILL STEIGER was a super guy, and I will miss him.

I thank his wife, Janet, and his son, Billy, and the people of the Sixth District of Wisconsin for sharing this great man with us.

Mr. BAUMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his kind characterization and I thank both of the gentlemen in the well for taking the time to pay these well-deserved tributes to a colleague we all miss.

It is hard to describe the horror I felt when I entered the Republican Caucus on December 4 and was told by one of our assistants, Ron Lash, that in the hours of the night before BILL STEIGER had passed away. This was a personal shock, and the fact that BILL was, as has been described here, such an active and vibrant person, made it hard to understand how death could overtake someone so young and so important to this House of Representatives.

I have to go back a long way to recall when I first met BILL STEIGER. He was a student at the University of Wisconsin, and I was a student

at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. I had been appointed by the Young Republican national chairman to serve on the executive committee of the Young Republican National Federation. I recall my wife, Carol, who is and remains in her own right a political activist of some note, was also very active in college Young Republicans at Dumbarton College of the Holy Cross here in Washington. Carol was in line to be national college cochairman as an acknowledged conservative, as is the gentleman from Maryland. We conservatives had hoped to elect both the college cochairmen—in those days as they were known, not cochairpersons—but we also knew we had a problem because in the dim remembrance of two decades I still remember BILL STEIGER was a candidate for that other position. With his usual thoroughness and perceptiveness he had lined up the votes.

It became clear before the Young Republican Convention in Denver that the two to be elected were BILL STEIGER and Carol Dawson, and they were, and they served together until my wife went onto the staff of the Vice President who was then striving for a higher office and obtained it. But we formed a friendship then with this intelligent young gentleman, a friendship that has endured all these years.

BILL preceded me to the House by many years, as the record shows, but when I was elected to the Maryland State Senate he took the time to write a note and acknowledged that accomplishment. This was typical of a man who was very busy, but he found the time to do the little things.

I do not think there was ever a time when legislation even on a minor matter escaped his attention. I remember on the Ways and Means Committee there was a minor bill I had a hard time moving, and he came to me and said, "I will take care of it," and in a few weeks he did. When I sought a place on the Rules Committee last fall, he assisted me greatly.

Perhaps it is not generally known but it was common practice for the gentleman from Maryland and the gentleman from Wisconsin to check with each other on procedural rollcall votes. If he came in before the vote ended, and found I had voted "no" and 420 others had voted for a rule, he would come to me and ask why I voted as I had. I would say, "I voted 'no' because it was a procedural matter or a parliamentary principle involved," and he would reply "That sounds reasonable to me. I believe you are right."

Quite often on those rollcalls the gentleman from Wisconsin and the gentleman from Maryland and one or two others voted "no" because of our love for this institution which manifested itself in a respect for parliamentary procedure. BILL had a brilliance that few could ever match. He took time to serve actively in a capacity on our minority side on the committee on personal matters. There are people who serve on our minority staff here on the floor who got the job not because they knew someone but because they needed the job and had the ability. BILL STEIGER took a personal interest in them when they applied for the job. This concern for people was typical.

I am not sure how many know that on any given day when we stayed late in session if one looked around for BILL STEIGER around 5:30 or 6 o'clock he was not here. He was always close enough to come back for rollcalls because he always made arrangements to be called back for them. He was dining at home with Billy and Jan because he wanted to spend that time with his family.

No one can know what great achievements might have come in the years ahead had he been permitted to live, but we can guess from the record he established while he was with us that his accomplishments would have been even greater.

But I prefer to think of what Lincoln once, when he was asked to subscribe for a marble monument for a former colleague in the Congress, wrote back and said he would do so and sent in his check. But he added though he was pleased to contribute for this cause the more important monument to his late colleague was the love and respect that would live in the hearts of those who knew him. BILL STEIGER will always have that love and respect from us all.

My wife, Carol, and I extend our deepest sympathy to Jan, Billy, and their family.

Mr. HEFTEL. Madam Speaker, I came to know BILLY STEIGER when I was a newcomer to this body, and there was a tremendous respect that one immediately gained for the man because of his willingness to help, and to listen, and because he cared. He cared enough to take the time to find out what the issues were and to find out what the individual problems were and to try to assist in reaching a compromise solution. If there is anything that this body represents, it is democracy in action, and BILLY STEIGER was this body when he spoke and when he moved and when he thought. His great testimony will be in the way that we can carry on thinking of how BILLY STEIGER served and in trying to serve in his image.

It was a wondrous image and one which all of us can follow in rendering better service, knowing that this body, as a whole, possesses men of his dedication and talent. I am very thankful that I had the opportunity, if only briefly, to know and work with our late colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin, **BILL STEIGER**.

Mr. ROTH. Madam Speaker, I first met **BILL STEIGER**, on a cold January night in Oshkosh, Wis. As a student, I was hearing much about this new Wisconsin assemblyman—he was then only 21. After his brief but pointed remarks, everyone in our group immediately recognized that this was an exceptional person who would leave his mark.

Later as a page for the Wisconsin Legislature, I had the opportunity to observe **BILL STEIGER**. He was always dedicated, conscientious, astute, optimistic, prepared, and above all, willing to go the extra mile. He had those qualities and virtues that are admired by all civil people.

The people of the Sixth Congressional District of Wisconsin have suffered a great loss as all of us have in the passing of **BILL STEIGER**. But, in a large sense **BILL STEIGER** was the Sixth District's contribution to the Nation. They demanded excellent representation and they received it.

As the historian Allan Nevins stated in his introduction to John Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage"—

That is, democracy—sound democracy is not a cause but an effect. Our national character will determine whether our legislators will be courageous or cowardly, and our politics good or bad.

The people of the Sixth District of Wisconsin demanded the best and they received the best in **BILL STEIGER**.

He was an institution man. Our last meeting on the campaign trail came in Kewaunee County, Wis. At a time when many people in Congress fell to the temptation to run against Congress, he spoke up for Congress and spoke up for you who served in this House.

He defended Congress against the slings and arrows of public indignation, because he believed in the system and this wonderful institution.

He was a model for the words of William Shakespeare, "to thine ownself be true and thou can be false to no man."

We will all miss **BILL STEIGER**. But in his brief span of service he did set a standard for us to follow—a standard of courage, judgment,

integrity, and dedication. May his example serve us in Congress and all who aspire to a public career.

Mr. HOLLAND. Madam Speaker, it seems our flags have been constantly at half-mast in recent times. So many of our Members have left us in circumstances almost as varied as the circumstances that beset all the people of our land. That is as it should be, for this House is representative in life and in death, in good times and in bad.

BILL STEIGER would never have considered the flag half-lowered. He would have said it is half-raised. That was his kind, his way, and his nature. He was big enough to always understand those who opposed him but never too big to pause and share his humor with us all.

His passing told us once more what his being among us was constantly saying: That this place and these times and our people are good enough to justify whatever sacrifices are necessary to preserve them. Though his departure leaves those of us who worked closely with him saddened, his memory leaves us an inspiration to return our flag again to full mast and to carry on.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I have not been here that long. Like many of the newcomers, however, I immediately recognized that BILL STEIGER was one who did command instantaneous respect. He was one of those who, as the commercial says, "When he spoke, people listened," a situation not many of us enjoy when we speak on this floor.

Madam Speaker, I am here today because I think there is one area in which BILL STEIGER really had so much influence and yet perhaps has not received as much notice recently, as other areas. I am referring to his impact on American agriculture.

My position as ranking member on the Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee brought me in immediate contact with BILL STEIGER. His State of Wisconsin, as does my State of Vermont, has a great deal of interest in what happened to the dairy industry. It was to BILL STEIGER that I went whenever I had a question on what to do in the dairy area. He had great impact on the 1973 and 1977 farm bills in the areas of milk price supports, dairy marketing orders, base plan pricing, and other areas. His work has left its imprint on the laws of American agriculture forever.

However, to me the area in which he left the greatest impact in agriculture had to do with preservation of the family farm. He recognized that without some changes in our estate tax laws and other areas, the family farm might not long endure. It was through his hard

work and his leadership that we modified, just a short while ago, the estate tax laws. These changes recognize that the farmers' wives of America, the women of America, should gain and should have the recognition of being copartners in the area of the farm. These changes will do much to create equality in the treatment of women. They will also do much to help preserve the family farm.

Also, unless we are very short memoried, we would remember the sugar bill of this last year. It was the Steiger floor amendment which was able to gain a consensus out of the House at a time when there had been considerable lack thereof. It was the failure of the conference committee to adopt the Steiger amendment which led to the killing of the sugar bill.

We, as proponents of agriculture, also remember BILL STEIGER by virtue of his position as ranking member on the Subcommittee on Trade, and his knowledge of the multinational trade negotiations.

He was a leader in that area, and all of us who wanted to know what to do or where to go went to him for his leadership. His recommendations, as always, were well reasoned and balanced.

I also worked with him in an area looking to the future of this country and what we can do to preserve farming by preserving prime agricultural lands of the Nation. He was one of the original cosponsors of my bill in that area which passed.

As to the future he was deeply concerned about young farmers. His bill, Young Farmer Homestead Act, deserves reintroduction and support. It would amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to make financing more accessible to young farmers.

Madam Speaker, for this and for many other reasons previously outlined, BILL STEIGER will be missed. He has left his imprint on many areas. These imprints are deep in the field of agriculture.

Also, I know his passing was commemorated by many of our national media. He was also noted in our small, local papers.

Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the Record an editorial which was furnished to me by my good friend, John McCloughry, and I will ask to have it spread in the Record at this point.

The editorial referred to follows :

[From the St. Johnsbury (Vt.) Caledonian Record, Dec. 7, 1978]

WILLIAM STEIGER

The sudden and unexpected death last Monday evening of Wisconsin Republican Congressman WILLIAM STEIGER has deprived the nation of one of its bright future leaders.

Congressman STEIGER came to Washington in 1967, at the age of 29, having already served six years in his state legislature. He was shortly thereafter voted one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of America, and rose rapidly in the Congress and in the councils of his party.

Most recently, Congressman STEIGER was nationally known for his two main concerns, increasing the rate of formation of productive capital in the economy, and heading off plans currently afoot in Washington to impose compulsory national service on the young people of this country. The "Steiger Amendment" lowering the tax rate on capital gains gained so much support last year in Congress that a modified version was grudgingly accepted by President Carter and the Democratic leadership, and became an important part of the 1978 tax bill.

Congressman STEIGER's long campaign against the reimposition of the military draft, particularly in the guise of "national service" conscription, won him the gratitude of many who see universal conscription as an utterly totalitarian proposition.

We can but hope that others will come forward to carry on the fight for the market economy and the freedom of the citizen from the all-powerful state. BILL STEIGER, dead of a heart attack at 40, has left large shoes to fill.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Madam Speaker, there are no adequate words in our language to express our sense of loss and sorrow about the death of our colleague and friend, BILL STEIGER. It is incomprehensible that such a dedicated, gifted, and valuable Member of this body should be taken at a time when his contribution to the House of Representatives and our Government was so significant.

I knew BILL STEIGER from my association with him on the Ways and Means Committee. I was a freshman—he was an experienced hand. We were of different political parties—we often agreed and disagreed on issues. We argued and discussed and debated and traded ideas. BILL STEIGER was a joy.

BILL STEIGER was a joy because he was an immensely talented legislator. He was effective because he worked hard, he cared about people, he possessed a joyous sense of humor, he was intelligent, he loved ideas, he had a completely open mind, he was constantly curious, he was meticulous about boring detail, he cherished debate and exchange of ideas, he respected experience, he understood the need for compromise, he understood the necessity of firm convictions, he never forgot who he was or why he was here. I could talk on for a day and a night and not adequately explain my deep feeling of respect for BILL STEIGER.

Some months ago in this Chamber our colleague, Mo Udall, made tribute to Hubert Humphrey by saying:

Will Rogers said he never met a man he didn't like—I say I've never met a man who didn't like Hubert Humphrey.

We can say today that we have never met a man who did not like and respect BILL STEIGER.

This people's House, this Government is less because of his loss. It is difficult, if not impossible, to find some meaning in the taking of such a young and valuable life. I do not pretend to know the meaning—we must ask God for that understanding. But I do know that BILL STEIGER's life and his work stand as a shining beacon to those of us who attempt to learn from his example. BILL STEIGER's life was the definition of public service. America is better because he was here.

Mr. HUGHES. Madam Speaker, during the past several months, we have lost several of our distinguished colleagues in the House of Representatives.

But the death of BILL STEIGER was a particular shock to all of us.

BILL was a hard-driving and conscientious legislator who took his congressional duties seriously.

He was a thoughtful man who examined each issue closely. Because he defined easy stereotyping, the labels of conservative and liberal could not be easily applied to BILL.

BILL passionately fought for the important issues he held dear.

Before he was appointed to the Ways and Means Committee, BILL STEIGER served on the Education and Labor Committee. He was in the front lines of civil rights and the driving force behind the legislation that ultimately led to the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. He fought diligently for the revision of our capital gains tax treatment. He supported the idea of an all-volunteer military.

His legislative accomplishments are legion and will serve as a fitting monument to a man who gave so much of himself during his tenure in the House of Representatives.

I will miss his smiling face, warmth, and love of life as well as his fair and independent approach to the issues. His voice of reason and his sense of fairplay will be sadly missed. I am thankful, however, that he touched our lives.

I would also like to extend to his family my most sincere condolences.

Mr. FINDLEY. Madam Speaker, whenever the name BILL STEIGER comes up I always think of one word, "courage."

I will never forget the day he went into the lion's den, so to speak, defending the controversial legislation, OSHA, which he cosponsored before a large audience of outraged business people.

He did not win them with his argument, but they saluted him with applause for courage when he finished.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Madam Speaker, when one looks back over life's associations, it is that unique individual or event that stands apart. When I look back over my 12 years of service in the Congress, BILL STEIGER was one such individual that stands apart.

I think back to the 90th Congress, when we both first came to Washington. Right from the start BILL stood out—perhaps in part because of his youthful good looks, but more so for the energetic and enthusiastic manner in which he approached his congressional responsibilities. It was apparent from day one that BILL STEIGER was going to be a very positive influence in the Congress of the United States.

Admired and respected by all who knew him, he was the type of individual people looked to for leadership. When he talked people listened.

The sudden passing that took BILL from us took one of this body's most able legislators, one of our most trusted friends, one of the nicest people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and working with.

The House will never be the same without him. I just hope that those who have reaped the rewards of his efforts will come to realize the rich legacy he left behind. He was a dedicated individual; a man of the highest purpose, who lived by the highest standards. May we all heed the inspiring example he set.

To his lovely wife, Jan, and son, Billy, to his parents, relatives, and friends, my wife, Helen, and I express our deepest condolences. I realize the void he has left can never be filled; but because of him, because of the qualities he embodied, this Chamber, this country, will be forever richer. He crammed a lot into his short life, and he will long be remembered for it.

Mr. O'NEILL. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to BILL STEIGER, whose untimely death has saddened all of us.

A very interesting thing happened to me the other day. My secretary said:

You know, there has been a box on your desk for about 6 weeks, probably for 2 months, looks like a tie box. You haven't opened it.

So I opened it up. It was a tie with the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a Christmas gift sent to me by BILL STEIGER. You can imagine the shock I received when I learned that BILL died early in December and after the session had ended, somewhere or somehow had obtained a tie with the seal of the State of Massachusetts. So I sat down and dropped a personal note to Janet telling her how the gift had been there on the desk. When I opened it, the tie brought back joyous memories of the trip we had taken overseas with Janet and BILL.

What a learned and respected fellow he was and what a force he had, not only with this Congress, but in the political life of America. He was truly loved by all his colleagues.

What else can you say at a time like this about a fellow for whom we all had so much respect. BILL was just truly a beautiful individual, and no matter how or by what means or manner you measure the man, BILL was really tops.

No other Member on either side of the aisle, Republican or Democrat, was harder working than BILL STEIGER; no other Member was more conscientious and diligent than BILL STEIGER; no other Member was more energetic and enthusiastic about the tasks and responsibilities of being a Representative than BILL STEIGER.

Those who served with BILL STEIGER on the Ways and Means Committee will miss his talents, his wit, and his pleasant personality. His Republican colleagues will greatly miss the energy, enthusiasm, and competence that he brought to his diverse duties. As Speaker, I will remember BILL STEIGER for his unique interest in the rules of the House and the fairness with which he always interpreted them.

All of us who served with him will miss the presence of a truly outstanding Member of the House and a distinguished American, for BILL STEIGER was a man of great integrity, personal honor, and sincere compassion and dedication.

Millie and all of the O'Neills join me, as I said in my letter to Janet the other day, in expressing our sympathy and in expressing our affection to the beautiful person we knew so well. Our prayers are with Janet and young Bill in this time of sadness and misery.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House of Representatives, we are pausing here to pay tribute to a unique individual who gave his life to the service of his State and to the service of his Nation.

WILLIAM STEIGER was born and raised in Oshkosh, Wis., and graduated from the local high school there. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He was very active in Young Republican politics during his time at the university, rising to the position of national chairman of the College of Young Republicans.

Almost immediately following his graduation from the University of Wisconsin, he ran for and was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1960. At the time he was elected he was the youngest person ever elected to the Wisconsin Legislature. He was reelected to two subsequent terms.

Right from the very first day he was sworn into the State legislature, BILL STEIGER became a take-charge guy, actively participating in many controversial and critical issues. I remember distinctly that the young assemblyman from Winnebago County's first district spent hours and hours putting together a legislative reapportionment plan in his very first session of the legislature which was passed almost without amendment.

In 1966 BILL STEIGER left the State legislature to run for this House and was elected, unseating an incumbent Democrat. He served with distinction on the Committee on Education and Labor of the House during his first several Congresses and took an active role in such issues as the Occupational Safety and Health Act, as well as manpower acts, during his tenure on the Committee on Education and Labor.

In the 94th and 95th Congresses he served on the Committee on Ways and Means, eventually becoming the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Trade of that committee.

BILL STEIGER was one who never shirked controversy. He was well prepared. He was articulate, and he always spoke with sincerity.

I miss BILL STEIGER personally because I relied on him for advice and counsel that I needed as a freshman Member of this body, and his void for me personally will be as difficult to fill as it will be for the Members of this House that he touched so greatly.

We will all miss this truly fine public servant—we, his colleagues, who profited from his presence, his party which learned from him, and his constituents who were served well.

In Wisconsin we use our political tradition and call it the "Wisconsin Ideal."

BILL STEIGER truly fit the Wisconsin Ideal in the finest traditions of public service.

Mr. Speaker, the best tribute we can pay to BILL STEIGER is to serve in the same manner he did.

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my personal sorrow and loss on the death of our friend and colleague, WILLIAM A. STEIGER. It was my privilege and pleasure to serve with BILL STEIGER for 2 years, and I learned to respect him quickly.

Having worked with BILL STEIGER on the Ways and Means Committee and on the Trade Subcommittee where he sat as the ranking Republican member, I know that his loss will be deeply felt by his party and the entire House of Representatives. BILL STEIGER was effective. He possessed that uncanny blend of idealistic and pragmatic instincts. His accomplishments came not through intimidation but from hard work, preparation, and persuasion based on a factual presentation.

The persistence of BILL STEIGER in obtaining his legislative goals should inspire each Member of this House. I can only say to each new Member of the 96th Congress that he was a Member to whom his Republican and Democratic colleagues listened when he spoke. We listened because he was very often right and we listened because he was well prepared and his remarks showed thoughtfulness and reason.

It has been one of my most rewarding experiences to sponsor with BILL STEIGER in the last Congress the Investment Incentive Act of 1978. When we began that effort to amend the capital gains tax rates to realistic levels to induce business expansion and investment, we faced a difficult and uncertain road. Against unimaginable odds and obstacles BILL STEIGER's intellectual effort would prevail.

Capital gains tax rates were effectively reduced in the 95th Congress. The effort was led by BILL STEIGER. The national benefits which we achieve from this effort which can be an historic cornerstone for American business development of the future will serve as a memorial to his energy and commitment.

To Janet and Billy I share in your sorrow and I share in your great pride in BILL. He accomplished so much. We mourn his death and commit ourselves anew to the virtues which his life has taught us.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, at a time when our country so desperately needs men and women of vision. BILL STEIGER's death was a loss not only to his family and to the people of Wisconsin's Sixth District but to our entire Nation.

Throughout his six terms in Congress, BILL represented the very best in politics.

He truly loved what he was doing—for his State and for the country. Ernest Hemingway once wrote: "The world is a fine place and worth fighting for." BILL STEIGER's life and career reflected that commitment to stand and be counted.

He believed in the American way of life and in government limited in scope but compassionate in intent. His remarkable record of political involvement is a testimony to his ideals.

I first met BILL STEIGER in 1969 while I was serving as an aide to his close friend, former Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld. When I announced for Congress 5 years later, BILL was the first public official to campaign on my behalf, and when I was elected in 1976, he took personal responsibility for showing me the ropes and pointing out the pitfalls of Congress and the legislative process. "Be straight and let the chips fall where they may," was his guidance and his example.

BILL STEIGER's extraordinary skill as a legislator stemmed from his ability to command the respect of Members of all philosophical persuasions. His legislative craftsmanship was never in better evidence than this past year when singlehandedly he made the punitive capital gains tax a national issue. With careful argumentation and brilliant persuasion he pushed through a reduction in capital gains taxes which will free up the creativity of American enterprise. This uncanny talent for translating the abstractness of modern economics into a manageable legislative framework was his hallmark.

BILL STEIGER was the leader of the intellectual reform wing of the Republican Party. Serving as chairman of the now famous Rule 29 Committee of the 1976 Republican National Convention he trumpeted the need for the Republican Party to open its doors to blacks and women and minorities of all faiths and countenances. A party that did not represent all the people, he argued, could never achieve a mandate to govern.

But when BILL STEIGER is remembered it will be for more than just a series of accomplishments found on the pages of the Congressional Record or reflected in the doctrine of his chosen political party. He will be remembered for the sincerity, the honesty, and the principle that he brought to the political process—characteristics too frequently eclipsed with modern interest group politics.

In a world of impersonal government, he represented family values. In an age of cynicism, he was an enthusiast. In a decade that has witnessed the most tragic abuses of power in American history, BILL STEIGER quietly stood for integrity.

With the passing of BILL STEIGER the Congress of the United States has lost more than a fine legislator. It has lost something of its soul.

Mr. ANDERSON of California. Mr. Speaker, early last December, this body once again was struck by a terrible loss. It was with a sense of great shock and sadness that I, and each of our colleagues, learned of BILL STEIGER's death—a death that was unexpected and unwelcomed.

The sense of injustice and loss is only increased when we consider that BILL's remarkable ascension, both within his party and the House itself, was cut so desperately short. Although he and I served on opposite sides of the aisle and often professed different philosophies, BILL's oratorical ability, his dedication to Wisconsin and to the Nation, and his diligent efforts to be the very best that he could, transcended mere political alliances. He was a man admired and respected by all of those with whom he came into contact.

Those of us who remain to serve here will feel deeply the loss of our dear colleague. My wife, Lee, and I would like to offer our condolences to BILL's lovely wife, Janet, and his son, William.

It is my most sincere hope that we, his colleagues, as well as his family and his close friends will remember not the tragedy of his death, but the excellence of his life.

Mr. STANGELAND. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our great sadness over the untimely death of WILLIAM A. STEIGER.

The Nation has lost the services of an enormously thoughtful and industrious man. Respected by all, BILL STEIGER will be remembered for his astute political sense and his exemplary work on taxes as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. He was not only admired as one of the finest legislators in the Congress, but also well liked for his good humor and easygoing manner. BILL STEIGER at 40 had many more years of exceptional service to give to his country. We have been enriched by our association with him and the ideals of public service he epitomized.

BILL STEIGER's loss will be felt keenly among his friends and colleagues in the House, and by the people of Wisconsin. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Janet, and their son, William Raymond.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join my colleagues and express my deepest sorrow at the death of our friend, BILL STEIGER.

This is a particularly sad occasion, because BILL STEIGER was a young man whose greatest achievements were still ahead of him. He made it a point to be in the forefront of efforts on many important and groundbreaking pieces of legislation, and he had accumulated the kind of experience and insight that would have led to further and greater accomplishments in Congress. To have his life so abruptly ended, at a time when his potential was just being realized, is tragic for his family and for the Nation.

But BILL provided an inspiration to the new Members of the Congress like myself. His example was that no matter how young you were, no matter how new, no matter what your belief—stand up and say what you believe in and what you think is right. That inspiration—that example—will live within this and future Congresses as a lasting memorial to BILL STEIGER.

At this time, I want to extend my condolences to BILL's family and to his close friends, both in Congress and out. His presence will be sorely missed by all of us who knew and loved and respected him as a Member, a colleague, a friend.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, all the Members of this body suffered a great loss with the death December 4 of BILL STEIGER. He had many friends and admirers on both sides of the aisle, and was known for his high ability, his energy, and his great promise as a public servant of unusual stature.

His work in the Congress was of the highest caliber. You could rely on him to have the facts at hand. He was a true legislative craftsman.

Those of us who served with BILL STEIGER since he came to Congress in 1967 knew him as a family man devoted to his wife Janet and his 9-year-old son, William R. Steiger.

Mr. Speaker, we have all lost much by the passing of BILL STEIGER. But so has the Nation. He rose to prominence at an early age, being elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly the same year he was graduated from the University of Wisconsin. After three terms in the statehouse, he won election to the Congress in 1966. The U.S. Jaycees named him one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in America in 1968, and he served as a delegate to three Republican National Conventions.

During his six terms in Congress, he had many accomplishments. He will be best remembered by many who did not know him personally for his work to reduce taxes on capital gains in the last Congress—"The Steiger Amendment."

His performance on this issue won him well-deserved national attention, and political pundits saw a bright future for our colleague from Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress will miss BILL STEIGER. The Nation will miss BILL STEIGER, and I will miss BILL STEIGER.

Let us honor his memory by upholding the principles and ideals to which he devoted his life, and by following his high example of public service.

Mr. BALDUS. Mr. Speaker, it is no easy matter to observe the sudden passing of a close friend and admired colleague. It is even less easy to put into meaningful words what BILL STEIGER meant to me and what he meant to this legislative body. I believe it is fair to say that he was an inspiration to all of us, on both sides of the aisle. Now that he is gone, I know that the memory of his presence here will continue to have that same effect.

In an institution whose mood often reflects the somber weight of the issues that must be decided here, BILL STEIGER brought a special, youthful enthusiasm, a brightness and energy, that gave a glow to all he touched. His fine intelligence and finer dedication set an example not easy to follow, but always encouraging to see.

As a fellow member of the Wisconsin delegation, BILL STEIGER was a coworker whose contributions to his State gained him the respect and appreciation of both the people back home and of all of us here who were privileged to work with him. His influence on the Ways and Means Committee was not always cheered by his political rivals, but was always a boon to the constituency he served so well.

Commentators and journalists have already remarked upon his youth and the personal tragedy of his early death. But the weight of this tragedy will be borne by the living, who must now continue without the benefit of his special presence. As was written long ago on a similar occasion:

He went down
As when a lordly cedar, green with boughs,
Goes down with a shout upon the hill,
And leaves a lonesome place against the sky.

Mrs. HECKLER. Mr. Speaker, if I were to forecast the judgment of future analysis of the role of the Congress in the 1970's, their verdict about the performance of the Congress, and the selection they will make as to who the towering figures of Congress were—the latter list would certainly include the name “WILLIAM

STEIGER." But if those in the gallery today had seen him on the floor during his service in this House, they would have had difficulty distinguishing that slight figure and crop of blond hair from some of the attractive young pages who serve us so well. He was reticent. Shy.

BILL was a man of enormous commitment, of enormous concern and conscientiousness. He was a man of great courage who dedicated himself to the pursuit of truth. His search for truth involved scholarship, countless hours of research, and dedication. He came, I well remember, on one occasion, to a congressional forum in my district, where he spent many hours. BILL listened, carefully, to views on trade which he had never heard, firsthand, before. He came to understand that point of view better. We did not convert him. But he was an understanding adversary.

BILL was one who quietly spoke his always effective piece, spoke for his country and for his party. He believed that good government is the best politics.

BILL was a catalyst among us. He knew how to listen. He never stopped learning. He could talk to everyone because he liked everyone. He brought the boil of conflict to the simmer of reasonable discussion. And to solutions. Answers.

BILL loved this House. Its give and take. Its feeling for and grasp of the public's pulse. Above all he loved us. His colleagues. And what his colleagues stood for and represented.

We knew him as a public man. But there was also a private special world he shared fully with his wife Janet and his son Billy. They suffer and bear the greatest loss.

I speak as a friend and colleague who—already—feels BILL's absence on this Hill and in this Chamber. I will miss him. So, Mr. Speaker, will this House and our country.

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, I did not know BILL STEIGER until I was elected to this House in 1976, but I was one of those among many that quickly grew to respect BILL STEIGER and to love him dearly.

Since we began this special order, I had the opportunity to make a speech to the Close Up Workshop and to return to this floor and find this special order still going on. I think that in and of itself is a tribute to BILL STEIGER.

To those young people I spoke in my opening remarks about the inspiration that BILL STEIGER was to the Members of the House and the inspiration that BILL STEIGER should be to many young people

that want to get involved in public service. He was first elected to this House at the age of 28 and had served 4 years in the Wisconsin State Assembly prior to that. BILL STEIGER was a person that everyone respected, and I think if we had to pick a word, whether it is courage, conviction, discipline, or love, respect is the one word that is the most fitting for him and probably the most important characterization an individual can have.

I can remember many times during discussions on the floor, whether it was formal or informal, BILL STEIGER was always in the middle. He always had a definite idea and led a lot of the Members in his direction.

There has been a tremendous outpouring of respect and sympathy from Members of the Congress, friends, relatives, and members of the press regarding our late colleague, WILLIAM STEIGER. I wish his son, Billy, and wife, Janet, the best.

Mr. RHODES. Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues shared the feeling of loss at the untimely passing of one of our most active, and respected Members, BILL STEIGER.

In a Washington Post column, writer George F. Will has caught the spirit of BILL STEIGER's service to his home State of Wisconsin and this body, and his enthusiasm as a participant in our unique American political process.

I urge my colleagues to take the time to read his article, which pays deserved tribute to an outstanding young man. The House certainly is the poorer with his passing.

Text of the article is as follows:

POLITICS—AS STEIGER PRACTICED IT

(By George F. Will)

Journalism, it has been said, often involves reporting "Mr. Smith is dead" to people who never knew that Mr. Smith was alive. But that often is important. The end of exemplary lives should not go unremarked.

Many Americans do not even know the name of their own congressman, and few Americans knew of the congressman from Wisconsin's Sixth District. But there are more than a few Republicans who, if asked why they are Republicans, would reply, briefly but sufficiently, "BILL STEIGER." They especially, but not they alone, know what the Republican Party, and the republic, lost when WILLIAM STEIGER died in his sleep at age 40.

When STEIGER came to Congress 12 years ago, he was the youngest member. When he died, he was the youngest looking member. But any tendency to think of him as "boyish" did not survive the bracing experience of matching wits and wills with him.

When, early this year, STEIGER submitted his amendment to lower taxation on capital gains, the Carter administration was ardently, not to say hysterically, opposed. But what STEIGER began resulted, after compromises, in rate reduction. It was an example of what one exceptional man, aroused and patient and right, can do.

I first met STEIGER early in this decade when the Senator for whom I worked (Gordon Allott of Colorado) became interested in passing the military-pay proposals that were a prerequisite for the transition from conscription to all-volunteer armed forces. STEIGER had been at work on the problem for several years, and no one in Washington was more ready for battle.

The issues of conscription and capital gains, one early and one late in his career, do not tell the full story of his career, but they summarize the theme of his Republicanism. He was concerned with liberating the nation's productive energies, including energy in the form of capital and, where possible, supplanting coercion with incentives.

Politics when done wrong, and when done right, can be a consuming profession. It is consuming for those whose eyes are always on higher office—who are consumed by ambition as by fire. More admirably, and more rarely, politics is consuming for those, like STEIGER, who do justice to their great work of making laws for a free people.

Congress has its share of members who coast, content to derive their satisfactions from the perquisites of office. But the minority side of the House Ways and Means Committee has recently been to Congress what Sugar Ray Robinson was to boxing: pound-for-pound, the best fighting force. And STEIGER, an initiating spirit, was among its best members.

It would be doing less than justice to STEIGER to say only that he was a superb legislative craftsman. He also resembled another bundle of useful energy from the upper Midwest. It may seem like a contradiction in terms to speak of anyone as a "Republican Hubert Humphrey," but STEIGER exemplified what Humphrey called "the politics of joy." Plainly put, he loved his profession, and it showed.

What Burke said of a nation is true, too, of a profession: To be loved it must be lovely. Politics as STEIGER practiced it—intelligent, passionate and amused—was lovely. People who remember him as a paperboy in Oshkosh remember that he always aimed to be a congressman.

A few years ago he was offered a job in the private sector at a substantial increase in salary, and he was tempted to take it for his family's sake. His nine-year-old son frequently went up to Capitol Hill, quietly drawing pictures and watching his father work. Politics is a profession that often exacts a terrible price from families, but as a colleague said of STEIGER: "We all admired the father in him."

The capriciousness of fate moved Yeats to write:

Some think it a matter of course that chance
Should starve good men and bad advance.

It was not chance that advanced STEIGER to the front rank of his party and his profession. But chance has done what only chance could do: It has prevented him from completing what would have been one of the most distinguished careers Congress has known.

Mrs. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, no Member of this House had more friends than BILL STEIGER. He had the great talent of not arousing animosities when he was fighting hard to win a point in this arena and and in the Ways and Means Committee. His adversaries were his friends.

I believe BILL STEIGER never harbored the resentments that afflict many of us during and after a tough legislative contest. He was a man of grace and charity. He was a gentleman in every sense of that term.

Mr. Speaker, all of us are aware of his contributions to the work of the House Ways and Means Committee. He pursued the intricate questions of tax law and the economic effects of tax changes with great diligence and intelligence.

We all admired in his magnificent legislative victory, the enactment of significant reductions in the capital gains tax. The achievement was all the more remarkable, because he was a Republican in a legislative body overwhelming dominated by the other party.

That victory was a tribute to his fine mind and his talent at persuasion. He persuaded a majority of the Ways and Means Committee and this House that a substantial cut in the capital gains tax would bring more capital formation and investment to an ailing economy.

Many of us were pleased to support him in that struggle, and those who did not were impressed with the facts and economic projects he presented to the House with clarity and eloquence.

Mr. Speaker, we shall miss BILL STEIGER's warmth and charm, but we will also miss his immense skill as a legislator.

Mr. ULLMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Steiger amendment got more headlines than any other issue considered by the Ways and Means Committee last year. All at once BILL STEIGER became the champion of investors and homeowners across the country. Before that, not many people knew BILL beyond Oshkosh and Washington. But to those of us who worked with and admired him, BILL STEIGER was hardly a single-issue representative.

His committee work on trade and social security was distinguished not only for its depth but for a rare determination to reach the highest common ground—no matter how divided the issue. He was one of those remarkable men whose personal philosophy transcended partisan lines. And his stature on "both sides of the aisle" proved it.

BILL STEIGER ranged well beyond the demanding issues of the committee. His campaigns for tougher occupational safety laws and his defense of legal services for the poor are monuments to his social commitment. His understanding and compassion for this Nation's youth

took shape in a volunteer Army and tax credits to hire the poor and untrained.

BILL STEIGER belonged to many causes. His pluck and humor steadied many debates. His intellect and the pursuit of the common good recognized no political borders.

We all share his loss.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Mr. Speaker, although there have been many, many pieces of legislation which BILL STEIGER helped shape, few have been as noteworthy as his amendment to the Tax Reform Act which was passed last year. BILL recognized the vital need to stimulate capital investment in this Nation and authored an excellent proposal to encourage investment to expand our economic production capacity. He worked in a consistent, logical, and completely above-board manner to convince his colleagues that a change in policy was needed. He overcame stiff resistance, illogical rhetoric from the highest sources, and finally managed to win approval of a well-crafted compromise which now stands as the policy of this Nation.

While his legislation successes can serve well as testimonials to his career, it is tragic that they will have to. I have no doubt that BILL STEIGER's career would have been tremendously successful. His effectiveness could only increase and his accomplishments would only multiply.

As an effective young politician, BILL's untimely death robs the Republican Party of one of its most promising individuals. As a brilliant legislator with an uncommon grasp of economics, BILL will be sorely missed by a nation sadly short of levelheaded and forward-thinking leaders. As an extremely energetic and personable individual, BILL will be sincerely missed by all of us who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, the startling loss of our dear colleague, BILL STEIGER, is far more than a personal one for me. It is a tragic one for the Congress, the Republican Party, and the Nation.

I served closely with BILL since he first came to Congress 12 years ago. Both of us came to Washington from the Midwest at virtually the same time and later found ourselves serving together on the Ways and Means Committee.

BILL's energy and intelligence made him a tremendously effective legislator which belied his youthful appearance. I think I can easily say that no Member of Congress overcame the inherent disadvantages of being a junior member of the minority party as effectively as BILL STEIGER. There are few of us who can honestly claim to have had, as an individual, as substantial an impact on the laws and policy of this

Nation. But, although he was not likely to boast about his accomplishments, BILL surely could claim his mark on the direction of important policy.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my thoughts on the passing of our distinguished colleague, BILL STEIGER. The tragedy of BILL's death at such an early age is softened somewhat by the realization of how much he had accomplished by the time he was 40.

Service in the Wisconsin Legislature begun when he was 22, followed by election to the Congress at 28, heralded a bright and successful career in Washington. At the time of his death, BILL STEIGER was one of the most respected Members of this House. The Steiger amendment that occupied so much of BILL's time during the last session became one of the focal points for the national debate on a return to fiscal conservatism, a debate in which BILL was an articulate and effective spokesman. Those who shared his views on this subject, and I am certainly one of them, will greatly miss his leadership.

I have lost a friend, but I know that many of us will be inspired by the example he set. His tireless devotion to his country will not be forgotten.

Mr. ICHORD. Mr. Speaker, we pay tribute today to our colleague BILL STEIGER whose untimely passing brought sadness to those of us honored to have served with him and to his many friends and constituents in Wisconsin. I join with the Nation in extending my personal condolences to BILL's family. We will all be less without him.

BILL was the youngest Member of Congress when the voters of Wisconsin's Sixth District sent him to Washington in 1966. His youthful appearance belied the strong leadership, wisdom, and understanding which all of us soon came to identify with him.

BILL never shirked from difficult decisions. He never forgot his constituents and never failed to serve them. He moved steadily ahead with what he felt had to be done for the Nation and was respected by all.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning once wrote:

Happy are all free people,
Too strong to be dispossessed.
But blessed are they among nations,
Who dare to be strong for the rest.

Such a man was BILL STEIGER, and we will miss him.

Mr. MAZZOLI. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply shocked and saddened over the news of BILL STEIGER's untimely death.

I served with BILL on the Education and Labor Committee for 4 years. His intelligence, deep grasp of the issues, and his perseverance impressed me greatly. And, when BILL's star rose nationally in 1978, it came as no surprise to me.

BILL was dedicated to improving the quality of life of the citizens of the Sixth District—of the citizens of the entire Nation.

He will be sorely missed by his constituents, and his friends and colleagues in the House.

I extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to Janet and the rest of BILL's family over their tremendous loss.

Mr. SEBELIUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to one of the truly bright young men of American politics, WILLIAM STEIGER, of Wisconsin.

I feel fortunate to have known BILL during my 10 years in Congress. He was a man whose enthusiasm and vitality rubbed off on almost everyone who had the opportunity to work with him. He brought a fresh insight into politics as only the young people can and gave us new perspectives. But along with his youthful insight, BILL had a maturity far beyond his years, an invaluable asset to the State of Wisconsin and our Nation. BILL will be missed by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He did his homework well and became a highly respected Member of Congress.

BILL STEIGER was an inspiration to young people who have dreams of entering political life, as well as his family and friends.

I know I speak for all his friends and colleagues when I say that his family and his country have suffered a great loss with the death of our friend, WILLIAM STEIGER.

Mr. ABDNOR. Mr. Speaker, seldom can lauds for "outstanding service and lasting achievements spanning more than two decades" be paid a 40-year-old.

Such praise, however, was richly earned by BILL STEIGER.

My association with BILL dates back to his stellar role in region VIII of the Young Republican National Federation when he was a teenager. His activities brought him to South Dakota as well as to other States in the upper Midwest and across the Nation.

Even in those early days of his career, BILL's unique talent for careful crafting of his ideas, pursuit of his ideals, and commitment to bettering this Nation were very evident.

That he had achieved so much, at an age when many are only beginning to think seriously about their ultimate goals, is testimony to his ability to persuade those of divergent opinions to work together.

In a day and age when "politics" has become a dirty word in the eyes of many, BILL's vision, his character, his diligence, his integrity stand out as a shining example of what is good in politics. He believed the governing of our Nation could be an honorable profession, and he set about showing all of us how it could and should be done.

Politics has a better connotation, because of truly honorable people like BILL STEIGER. We all are better for having had the opportunity to know and to work with BILL STEIGER.

BILL's legislative achievements are only part of his rich legacy. Even richer is his legacy of good will and friendship which enabled him to accomplish so much in such a short lifetime.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, qualities of principle, insight, tireless attention to fine points of tax law while others grew weary, and care for equality in his aggressive and early pursuit of open housing laws reveal the diverse attributes BILL STEIGER shared with us in his public service in Congress. He was a leader in the Republican ranks, and his sudden and early death at age 40 leaves us absent a friend and a scholar we miss.

During the 95th Congress, I had the opportunity to work closely with BILL STEIGER on legislation dealing with beef imports and sugar price stabilization. His wisdom and insight proved invaluable in my understanding of reaction by members of the Ways and Means Committee to both issues, and it served as a framework for my action on this legislation within the House Agriculture Committee.

His leadership and legislative strategy again proved invaluable to all of us during his pursuit of capital gains tax cuts others chose not to handle due to the complex nature of the subject matter. His consistent and reasoned pursuit of capital gains tax cuts are now largely written into the Revenue Act of 1978, now Public Law 95-600. He was a leader, and his capital gains tax cuts will be a lasting tribute to him.

I have been chosen by my colleagues to occupy the position on the House Ways and Means Committee caused by BILL STEIGER's untimely death. I succeed him on the committee, but neither I nor anyone else there will take his place. His work was exemplary and instructive. It will serve as a benchmark by which I shall judge my own activities and learn from his observations.

Mr. COUGHLIN. Mr. Speaker, I find the words difficult to choose in paying tribute to our late friend and colleague, BILL STEIGER, whose unexpected death so shocked us.

To make him bigger than life would be a disservice. For he was a man whose unique ability to put things in their proper perspective, whose detached amusement at the pretentious and pompous, and whose genuine appreciation of the human psyche revealed him at once as a warm, compassionate, and intuitive human being.

BILL STEIGER, in fact, was an extraordinary human being.

Much has been said of his outstanding legislative abilities. He was a craftsman of the first order, a man of the House, and a legislator who lived and loved his job.

BILL STEIGER, although he carried no official Republican House leadership title, always was a part of the Republican leadership. His views were sought and respected. His imagination and enthusiasm were invaluable.

Since he came to the Congress as a young man, BILL STEIGER grew with the job. But he never grew too big for the job. He was helpful and encouraging to new Members. He recognized what needed to be done and did it.

BILL STEIGER took his job seriously, but he never took himself too seriously.

There are many things I remember—and always will remember—about BILL STEIGER. In the midst of forceful arguments, when the fate of the Republic may have seemed in doubt to the individuals involved, it was BILL STEIGER who brought us back to reality.

With that detached amusement signaled by the twinkle in his eyes, he would bring the debate back to Earth. His pinpricks of humor permitted the hot air to dissipate so that realism—or lack of it—quickly became apparent.

That BILL STEIGER will be missed by his colleagues is beyond doubt. Indeed, he was of such caliber that the Nation has suffered a loss in his death.

Perhaps, he would have said that was a bit too much. But, as a realist, he might have acknowledged more than a little truth in it.

One of the brightest lights of the House of Representatives is gone.

I am sure his attributes as a human being will be remembered as much—and most likely more—than the many legislative accomplishments of his public career.

To his wife, Janet, and his son go the condolences of Betsey and me. We hope the wonderful memories soon overcome the grief.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Gibbons and I wish to join in this special tribute to BILL STEIGER. We have always felt that he

and Jan were our good friends, and we wish to pay tribute to both of them.

BILL's services to his country and to his congressional district have been applauded by many, and I want to add my endorsement.

BILL was a special kind of person—very intelligent, very industrious, and very highly principled. He understood the art of legislating and, with his outstanding characteristics, he became one of our most able legislators.

BILL is in a sense irreplaceable, and we shall miss him for that, but we shall also miss him for his very warm, friendly, humane characteristics.

Our thoughts, prayers, and good wishes go forth to Jan and their family.

Mr. SCHULZE. Mr. Speaker, our Nation suffered a great loss on December 4 with the untimely passing of our colleague, and my friend, BILL STEIGER. The residents of Wisconsin's Sixth District have lost an able, competent, and articulate Representative. The State of Wisconsin has lost a forceful and sound voice in Washington, but most of all, the American people have lost a leader.

BILL STEIGER was one of the shining lights of the Republican Party and of our country. I had the good fortune to serve with BILL on the Ways and Means Committee and personally feel a tremendous loss. BILL was a leader who might best be remembered for his concise arguments, his compassion, and his guidance.

He was dedicated to a solid, responsible government for the American people, and more, he felt that we must move toward wise and fair tax policies. BILL's push for reduction of the tax on capital gains this past session was an example of his understanding of the economic needs of our Nation, but more importantly, of the needs of our people.

The Republican Party lost a future star. BILL STEIGER was one of the most articulate and persuasive leaders of our party, and he will be sorely missed.

But the private BILL STEIGER will be missed most of all. I was talking with a colleague soon after learning of BILL's death, and he said to me, and I quote:

The thing I think I'll remember most about BILL STEIGER is how much he loved his family. He had his little boy on the floor of the House more times than I can remember, and he always introduced him to his friends with such pride. He told me that he believed that his son should know what his dad did for a living, but more, that he should understand how our Government

worked. I always admired the way he included his family in all aspects of his life, and I know that his family has suffered a great loss.

BILL STEIGER will be missed by his wife, Janet, and his son, Billy; but he will also be missed by his friends in the Congress. His family can be proud of his service to his country, as I am proud to have served with BILL STEIGER.

Mr. CORMAN. Mr. Speaker, BILL STEIGER joined the Ways and Means Committee in 1975 and quickly became one of its brightest and most articulate members. He was always prepared to deal with any issue, and his keen insight and probing questions were a help to us all. He tackled every problem with energy, enthusiasm, and un-failing patience.

As the ranking minority member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Unemployment Compensation, BILL played a major role in the development and passage of the Unemployment Insurance Amendments of 1976. This landmark legislation—which added almost 10 million workers to the system—was the most important action taken in this area since the unemployment insurance program was enacted in 1935. BILL STEIGER's cooperation and leadership were crucial to its success.

When we were in agreement, he was an invaluable ally, and when we differed, a formidable opponent. Last year, we faced each other on "Meet the Press" in a debate over the much-discussed capital gains issue. Our differences in this area could not have been greater, but BILL was warm and friendly and made everyone involved feel more comfortable. Needless to say, his arguments were incisive and persuasive, as usual.

We on the Ways and Means Committee will feel the loss of BILL STEIGER greatly. No issue was too technical or complex for him to delve into and digest thoroughly. His integrity was unquestioned and his sense of fairness unmatched. He took a joy in his work that was an inspiration to us all, and we shall not forget him.

Mr. LENT. Mr. Speaker, this 96th Congress has lost one of its ablest, most effective legislators with the untimely death of BILL STEIGER. I know we all share a great sense of shock and personal loss in the passing of our colleague, for BILL STEIGER's warm personality, penetrating intelligence, and his quiet good humor were such that it was impossible not to like and respect him.

Our sense of shock and personal loss is deepened by the knowledge that death took BILL at the very time when his legislative efforts were

achieving national influence and recognition, ending his brilliant career before its full promise could be realized.

Those of us who have been privileged to have served in the Congress with BILL long recognized and admired his intelligent grasp of the complex issues which involved his legislative work on the House Ways and Means Committee and his outstanding ability to persuasively articulate his views to his colleagues. These qualities, coupled with BILL's careful attention to detail, and his tireless dedication to the legislative tasks insured that BILL played a significant role in shaping the tax laws of our Nation.

We in the House shall miss the intelligent guidance BILL STEIGER gave us in our legislative efforts. The Sixth Congressional District in Wisconsin, whose interests and needs he met so well, shall miss the services of this truly outstanding public servant, as will the entire Nation.

But, most of all, those of us who knew him will miss the warmth of his friendship and the stimulation of his company.

I know all of us join in offering our deepest condolences to BILL's lovely wife, Janet, and their fine son, whose grief I share.

Mr. NATCHER. Mr. Speaker, today Members on both sides of the aisle, irrespective of party affiliation, are paying tribute to an outstanding Member of the House of Representatives—our highly respected late colleague, WILLIAM A. STEIGER.

We are today honoring him in death, but he did not have to wait for the many honors and the respect his colleagues and Americans everywhere accorded him during his life. These sometimes took the form of the silent admiration of the Members even when they were constrained to differ with his position on a particular matter. BILL STEIGER will be greatly missed by his colleagues and by the American people. His kind of honesty, courage, and steadfastness are not easily come by. His concept of public trust was without parallel and never did he hesitate to speak out against any proposal which he felt was not sound and not in the best interest of our people. Words are not adequate to fairly appraise BILL STEIGER's tremendous capacity for loyalty and love of his country. In every position he held, either in private or public, he achieved distinction. His service in all of his assignments was marked by a high sense of conscience and duty. His character, his achievements, and his faithful service will be an inspiration to generations yet to come.

May God let the light of his countenance shine upon him and give him peace.

To his lovely wife and family I extend my deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I rise to join in this tribute to BILL STEIGER, it is with a special feeling of sadness. I am saddened that a career, so brilliantly started, should have been so tragically cut short, leaving undone many of those things BILL wished to accomplish.

BILL STEIGER devoted his entire adult life to public service. Elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly shortly after his graduation from the University of Wisconsin in 1960, he remained at his State post until his election to the U.S. Congress in 1966. BILL's exceptional legislative abilities were quickly recognized by his colleagues and his dedication to duty, hard work, and resourcefulness won him many friends on both sides of the aisle. Perhaps many of us will remember him best for his service on the Committee on Ways and Means, where his qualities of leadership and powers of persuasion enabled him to have such a profound impact on the legislation which came before that important committee for consideration.

BILL STEIGER served his State and Nation with an honor and distinction that reflected his love of country and consideration for the rights of people. We may lament that this great source of intellect and talent has been removed from us, before the full potential could be realized, like a valuable resource which has been only partially tapped. But we may be thankful that for even this one short decade this rare and talented man served in the Congress and his accomplishments have left an indelible mark on this body.

I shall miss my good friend and colleague, BILL STEIGER, but I will be forever grateful that I had the privilege of knowing and serving with him.

Mr. CONTE. Mr. Speaker, BILL STEIGER's life was short—being only 40 years old when he died—but not so short that he did not have time to make improvements in the world he lived and moved in, in this House, and in the Republican Party. He served in Congress for 12 years and, for 12 years, we were enlightened by his intellect, amused by his wit, and enjoyed his warmth. And we feel that we are better off for having known him.

He has been described as a rising star of the Republican Party, and he most assuredly was. Though BILL himself never seemed very concerned with seeking higher office, anyone could see from his career in the House that he was a man of exceptional ability who had a dynamic future.

In the Education and Labor and Ways and Means Committees, he was an innovator. In his fights for tax reform, better legal aid for the poor, and a volunteer Army, he was relentlessly involved and deeply interested. We are especially indebted to him for his involvement in skirmishes of the Republican Party over party structure and rules. He was totally dedicated to his profession, and it seems that no problem was too unpleasant for him to meet, head on.

BILL STEIGER was fortunate in that he recognized time's essence, and the true seriousness and implications of time served in Congress. Hence—the enthusiasm and the extreme dedication; and if he seemed to have a sense of urgency, we can now be grateful for it. He was, on all counts, an achiever.

We will note his absence for a long time to come because he was a rare person and very gifted, as thinker, as a legislator, and as a friend.

Mr. WYLIE. Mr. Speaker, I can recall as if it were only yesterday when I met the new freshman Congressman from Oshkosh, Wis. We came to Congress together in 1967 in the second largest Republican class in history. On that day, observing BILL STEIGER, I thought to myself, "Boy, is he young." He looked even younger than his 28 years.

I was impressed that he had been elected to the hallowed Halls of Congress at such an early age. At the same time, I was somewhat curious as to the kind of a contribution he might make. BILL STEIGER's performance in the House quickly dispelled any doubts as to his effectiveness. He proved to be intelligent, extremely articulate, and very hard working—a combination enabling a person to offer a vital contribution in whatever endeavor he may pursue. He was indeed one of our best Members.

BILL STEIGER's death represents a great loss to the Republican party, which sorely needs young people of ability, integrity, and appeal to rally to its cause. More than that, his fairness, innovation, and openmindedness will be missed by the American people.

The 96th Congress has already felt his absence because BILL STEIGER always injected himself into the deliberations of the full House, committees, and Republican conference. By this time, he would have already proposed several innovative ideas to solve our pressing national problems. The void left by the loss of BILL STEIGER's imagination and his sincere desire to benefit others will not easily be filled.

Marjorie and I wish to extend our deepest sympathy to BILL's wife, Jan, and to his son, Bill.

Mr. GRADISON. Mr. Speaker, before I ever met BILL STEIGER, I knew of him through his relatives in Cincinnati. I was told he was young, able, hard working, and that since childhood he had wanted to be a Congressman. Four years ago, when I was elected to the House, I came to know how accurate were those comments about him—and also how they failed adequately to describe a truly remarkable man. BILL STEIGER had the rare ability to understand a problem thoroughly, to go to the heart of an issue with probing questions, to see fresh and imaginative solutions to old concerns, to articulate his views with unusual clarity, and to bring colleagues together in support of his initiatives. This he did with wit, at times with eloquence, always with tolerance for the views of those who disagreed.

All of us are poorer with his sudden and untimely death, just as all of us are richer by having known him. Through his example we are challenged to carry on, to make each day count, to follow his lead. By doing so, BILL STEIGER will continue to live through the work of those who cherish his memory, keep alive his ideals, strive for his high standards.

Somewhere if a roll is kept of Congressmen's Congressmen, BILL STEIGER's name is surely inscribed. For the brief moment he was in our midst, he showed each of us that one person can make a difference in shaping wise public policy.

Mr. DRINAN. Mr. Speaker, it was always a pleasure to work with the late Congressman BILL STEIGER. He had a sense of legislation that made it easy to work with him.

I worked with BILL on several issues related to the draft. I worked with him also on his successful attempts to improve the readability of the Congressional Record.

I share the shock and sadness of all his colleagues at his passing. Although we lament his death at such a very early age, we are nonetheless grateful for the very significant contributions which he made during his years as a Member of Congress.

We send to his widow, Janet, and to his son our prayerful compassion and sincere sympathy. They and we can at least take consolation in the fact that BILL STEIGER contributed in very creative and lasting ways to the Congress and to the country.

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, rising stars are full of promise. Their light shines more brightly as time goes on. Shooting stars are full of brilliance. Their all-too-brief passage leaves the sky markedly dimmer. In life and in death BILL STEIGER was both a rising and a shooting star.

BILL STEIGER started his rise in the birthplace of the Republican Party in Wisconsin nearly 20 years ago. Beginning in 1960, he served three terms in the Wisconsin Legislature before his election to Congress in 1966. His achievements early in his congressional career, such as his work on the Occupational Safety and Health Act, establishment of the volunteer Army, and programs to provide legal services to the poor led Time magazine to single him out as 1 of 200 rising leaders in the United States in 1974.

His dogged efforts on the Ways and Means Committee on behalf of the Steiger amendment earned him the respect and admiration of all of his colleagues.

As national chairman of the College Young Republicans, Chairman of the Republican National Rules Study Committee from 1973–75, and a national spokesman for Republican policy, BILL STEIGER was certainly a credit to his party. But as the popular representative from a district including cities as diverse as Ripon and Sheboygan, he was also an outstanding Congressman. We miss the brightness of his star, for, like that of the shooting star, it shined all too briefly.

Mr. MURPHY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues today in mourning the loss of Hon. WILLIAM A. STEIGER of Wisconsin.

BILL was one of the House's most conscientious and effective legislators, and deservedly earned the reputation of a Congressman who did his homework. Last Congress, BILL captured national attention by successfully pushing through a proposal to cut capital gains taxes. Not content to live off his laurels, BILL announced just prior to his death that he planned to introduce a bill allowing taxpayers to establish special capital gains "investment accounts" on which no taxes would be paid. To our loss, we will not have the opportunity of hearing BILL argue his views on this legislation in the 96th Congress.

Nevertheless, the memory of BILL STEIGER will endure. In particular, BILL will be remembered for the interest he showed in his work, his vitality and sense of fairplay, and his openness to new ideas and fresh approaches. Those qualities will serve as a continuing inspiration to us all.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join with my distinguished colleagues in today's special order to pay tribute to a fine man, an outstanding legislator, who no longer is with us, WILLIAM STEIGER.

During the recent recess we were all shocked to learn of the untimely death of our good colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin, who was taken in the prime of his life.

BILL STEIGER had already served six terms in the House of Representatives and three terms in the Wisconsin State Assembly. At the age of 40 he had amply demonstrated a record of hard work, leadership, and dedication to the people of Wisconsin.

Congressman STEIGER garnered a national reputation for his devotion to reforming our Federal tax structure.

I have many warm memories of my first days in office, and BILL is a part of those memories. As fledgling Congressmen, the magnitude of our new jobs seemed overpowering. But there was BILL STEIGER offering to help—already a seasoned veteran in 1973. This Wisconsin gentleman helped lead many of us through the labyrinths of the Federal bureaucracy.

BILL STEIGER did more in his short lifetime than many do in twice that span. I join my colleagues in offering deepest sympathy to his widow, Janet, and to his son, William Raymond.

BILL STEIGER's leadership and expertise will be sorely missed not only by all of his friends in the Congress, but by his nation.

Mr. KASTENMEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of our colleague and my friend from Wisconsin, BILL STEIGER.

BILL had all the attributes we generally associate with success in the field of public service. When he came to the House in 1967, as the youngest Member of the Congress, BILL already had earned an outstanding reputation as a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly in which he served for 6 years. In a relatively short time in the House, BILL emerged as an articulate and effective spokesman for the causes he championed.

Today, we have set aside this time to recall our association and experiences with our late colleague and our respect for his intellectual and personal character. We had the opportunity to watch him grow and develop during the major part of his career, BILL constantly used his powers along the lines of excellence, and he became an influential Member of the House. BILL was a man of good will, a man of ideas, and he was respected and trusted by all.

Although BILL and I knew that we would not always agree on national issues, we each shared a desire to see service in our military forces remain voluntary. We both opposed the military draft and the

inequities associated with it. We enjoyed a close working relationship on common problems shared by our neighboring constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, the high court of history sits in judgment on each one of us recording whether, in our brief span of service, we fulfilled our responsibilities. Our success or failure will be measured by the answers to the following questions—were we truly persons of judgment, were we truly persons of integrity, were we truly persons of dedication? Those of us who knew BILL can be sure that the final judgment of history on him will, indeed, be high.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my heartfelt sympathy to BILL's widow, Janet, his son, Bill, and the Steiger family.

Mr. DERWINSKI. Mr. Speaker, the Congress has lost one of its great legislators in the passing of our distinguished colleague, BILL STEIGER. For the House as a whole, it will be his quiet leadership that will be missed.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, BILL demonstrated his dedication to solving our economic problems. BILL was an especially hard-working Member whose skilled expertise helped to lead this country toward more responsible fiscal policies and more effective tax legislation.

His outstanding record of faithful service and his strength of character earned him an honored place in the hearts of all those who had the privilege to know him. He was tirelessly dedicated, conscientious, and always constructive.

A man of great personal warmth, BILL was respected by everyone who came into contact with him. He will be remembered not only for his legislative skill but also for his warm character. The country has lost a man of great stature; we have lost a good friend.

My wife, Pat, and I would like to express our sincere condolences to Janet and their son, Bill, on their loss. We all share that loss to some extent.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I rise this afternoon to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the distinguished career of the late BILL STEIGER. While we cannot fully understand why the Almighty in his infinite wisdom chose to call BILL from our presence, we can rejoice in having had the privilege to serve with him for 12 years.

BILL STEIGER and I came to the Congress at the same time in January of 1967. It was quite apparent from the very beginning of his

public service that he was destined to be a leader in this body and to be one of the hardest working Members we had.

He thrived on the legislative process and the good he always attempted to accomplish for his constituents and his fellow Americans. BILL set an example of dedication and hard work which was the envy of us all. And I might add that his efforts bore fruit in terms of new legislative proposals which had the Steiger imprint.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to losing a brilliant legislator with the untimely passing of BILL STEIGER, many of us, and I include myself in that number, have lost a warm and personal friend. To know BILL STEIGER was to like him and appreciate his humility and sincerity.

I join with my colleagues in expressing sympathy to the Steiger family and wish it were possible to lessen the burden of grief of his wife and son. We thank you for sharing BILL with us and know that we are better lawmakers for having known and served with him.

Mr. BRINKLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my wish to pay tribute to BILL STEIGER, whose deeds testify to the fact that his life really counted for something.

We came as members of the 90th Club together, and the twinkle in his eye quickly telegraphed his good humor and quick wit. His service for the ensuing 12, meaningful years was in the superlative category. He wore the mantle of responsibility well and never lost the sparkle that marked him for the uncommon man that he was.

He was a special friend, and I miss his presence; yet his example is here, and I am glad.

Mr. ROSTENKOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of great loss and sorrow that I today join my colleagues to address this body in marking the passing of our close friend, BILL STEIGER. He served the Congress of the United States with distinction for nearly 12 years and we will be the poorer for the loss of his leadership.

In the early 1960's the residents of Oshkosh recognized his unique talents and dynamic energy by choosing him to represent them in the Wisconsin State Assembly. First elected at the youthful age of 22, BILL quickly established himself by carrying on the fine tradition of Wisconsin progressivism.

During his all too brief stay in Washington, BILL served from 1967-74 on the Education and Labor Committee. His service on that committee was characteristic of his entire career—constant work and mastery of technical issues.

BILL was elected to the Committee on Ways and Means in 1975, and his impact was immediately felt on our deliberations. He first became nationally known during the last Congress for his effective work in the area of capital gains taxation; those of us on the committee knew long before the national media that BILLY STEIGER was a force to be reckoned with. His style of questioning—his constant desire to understand “just exactly what we are attempting to do here”—exposed the folly of many an ill-conceived proposition.

BILL was neither a partisan nor parochial politician. He often took stands that transgressed party lines and superseded traditional regional concerns. As a legislator who has always prided himself on his ability to count heads on crucial issues, I knew the unique value of this man. Having BILLY STEIGER’s head—and his heart—on your side was, to me, always worth far more than just his single vote.

It is too easy to say how much individuals will be missed after they are gone. Superlatives are utilized in such quantity at these times that their true worth often becomes devalued. But my colleagues Mr. Conable of New York, Mr. Jones of Oklahoma, and all others on the Committee on Ways and Means know only too well that it can be fairly said that BILLY STEIGER sincerely will be missed by us all. We will remember him not only for what he gave us in the past, but for the future and the challenges we must struggle to meet without his many talents. His positive attitude, his constant desire to accomplish the possible, and his indefatigable drive were traits that will not be easily replaced.

On a personal level, BILLY STEIGER was a friend whose courtesy, humor, patience, and openness were endearing qualities. That we have been deprived of him so early in life is especially painful. But to have known him as a friend, however briefly, was our common good fortune.

Although BILL’s loss to this institution has been great, it cannot be compared to what has been suffered by his wife, Janet, and their child. To them and the rest of his family—particularly his father, Carl, who was justly proud of his son and his many accomplishments—I offer my sincere sympathy.

Mr. WYDLER. Mr. Speaker, there are some Members of Congress who are very special people. BILLY STEIGER was one of those. Dedicated to his position in Government, he served his district and country very well indeed. He and I used to joke that we formed the

backbone of the smallest caucus in the House of Representatives, the Swiss Caucus, for we both had a background and family roots from that country.

BILL was smart, and devoted to his position, but he was different from most Congressmen because of the deep sincerity he brought to his job and the conviction with which he carried out his duties. We will all miss him.

Mr. HANLEY. Mr. Speaker, much has been said and written about our dear friend, BILL STEIGER, since his untimely death. I would like to take just a moment to add my voice to those paying tribute to this truly exceptional man.

Few people knew the personal handicap BILL STEIGER worked with, the necessity of two insulin injections daily since the age of 13. Few people knew about it, because BILL never once let it interfere with his work in this body. His energy, industriousness, and dedication to his life's work of representing the people never once faltered.

BILL STEIGER was not a partisan politician in this House. His judgments were based solely on the good for all the people. Even as a member of the minority party, he played a great role in the shaping of policy and legislation passed by the Congress. He never sought to be a divisive force, but always was one who would help bridge the gap between differing factions.

BILL STEIGER was a man of great compassion and of great integrity. His votes were based on principle and never on expediency. His legislative actions were careful and reasoned, never flippant or obstructive.

In his 12 years in the House, BILL STEIGER's accomplishments were indeed impressive. His work contributed greatly to the compromises which brought about the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act, the end of the draft and start of the volunteer Army, a program providing legal services for the poor. As we all know so well, in the 95th Congress he led the fight for reduction of capital gains taxes.

It is up to us now to continue to work in the spirit of BILL STEIGER, to dedicate ourselves to task for doing the people's business as best we can without feeling the necessity of grabbing headlines for our efforts. That is the type of man BILL STEIGER was, and we shall miss him.

Mr. ROYBAL. Mr. Speaker, as the House pauses today to honor the memory of a most distinguished colleague, I would like to express the sense of deep loss shared by all those who had the privilege to know and work with BILL STEIGER. In addition to serving with BILL

in the House for the past 12 years, I had the good fortune to have BILL and his family as neighbors here in Washington.

BILL exemplified the hard-working Congressman who initiated legislation and then used his political prowess to insure passage. Clearly, BILL loved his work which he was so good at, and clearly, he will be sorely missed in the Halls of Congress. He will be missed not only for his outstanding contributions to the legislative process, but also for his good humor and personable ways. And while he and I might not have always found ourselves on the same side of an issue, I always knew he had a brilliant career in store for him as a leading force in the Republican Party.

It was a true pleasure to know BILL as a colleague and neighbor, and I place great value on the friendship which developed over the years. His untimely passing is a source of personal sorrow to his many friends in the House of Representatives, and our sincerest sympathy is extended to his widow, Janet, and to his entire family.

Mr. RUSSO. Mr. Speaker, he was both a fine human being and legislator, and so our loss of BILL STEIGER is an especially great one. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with a man of his skill, energy, and lively sense of humor while sharing his friendship.

From early on, as the youngest Member of Congress in 1966 until his death, BILL's diligence and oratorical ability always captured my admiration. He was impressive. And he has indeed left us a legacy of legislative achievements—work with OSHA, the volunteer Army, rules, taxation. He also opened the door for women and minority groups to participate in the Republican Party.

We all learned the meaning of thoughtfulness and decency from BILL, and these lessons will remain with us.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it was with great shock and dismay that I learned of the death of BILL STEIGER.

I had the honor and pleasure of serving with BILL on the Ways and Means Committee. During that time, I came to appreciate both his wit and insights into the legislation which came before us.

During the consideration of the Revenue Act of 1978, I was extremely pleased to have the opportunity to work with Congressman STEIGER on my jobs credit proposal. It was due to his concern about vocational education and the resultant opportunity for youth to secure employment that a vocational jobs credit was included in the tax package.

The loss of BILL STEIGER is indeed a personal one as well as one for the Congress and Nation as a whole. BILL STEIGER was one Member of Congress who worked extremely hard and took his responsibilities very seriously.

We, in the Congress, would have all benefited from his leadership and will indeed miss his presence.

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. Mr. Speaker, BILL STEIGER, whose untimely death last month was widely lamented, was among our most productive legislators whose work while a Member of this body is his own best monument.

The sad part is that Mr. STEIGER's accomplishments did not attract the national recognition they merited until after he was gone. His record was outstanding. While still in his early thirties, he was instrumental in winning enactment of the bill to end the military draft and inaugurate the all-volunteer Army. He also worked with telling effect for passage of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, provision of legal services to the poor, and—most recently—reductions of the capital gains tax.

His success in helping to shape major laws was all the more remarkable considering he was always a member of the political minority during his 12 years of House service. But he knew the art of compromise, and he was well respected on both sides of the House aisle.

As columnist Dave Broder has written, "STEIGER was a man of exceptional talent, integrity, and drive." Of him it can truly be said that he will be missed, and that we need more like him.

Mr. GOLDWATER. Mr. Speaker, the sudden loss of BILL STEIGER has been a jolt. He was a rare human being, a man of exemplary character, a tireless worker, an intelligent, bright, and capable public servant, a man true to his convictions, and a devoted husband and father. I will miss him, the Republican Party will miss him, this House will miss him.

Those of us who knew BILL were impressed with his many contributions to this body, especially at so early an age. The story is told that when BILL, at the age of 28, arrived in Washington to take his seat in the House, he was mistaken for a page. Actually, BILL had already established a reputation for himself as an accomplished legislator in the Wisconsin State Assembly. Certainly, BILL's success was no surprise to the folks in Oshkosh who he so diligently served as a paperboy. They knew this was one young fellow with a promising future in politics.

BILL STEIGER has left an indelible impression in the annals of the House. He was in the prime of his career when his life was cut short, and there is no telling what even greater things awaited him had he lived. The respect he earned as an influential member of the Ways and Means Committee was evidenced by his leadership on the measure to cut taxes on capital gains. He was also an important figure in the debate on the National Energy Act.

It was not uncommon for me to look to BILL for his wisdom in making decisions as a Member of Congress. He was a statesman in the truest sense of the word. He is not here now, but in carrying out my responsibilities in the House I will often ask myself, "How would BILL have done it?"

To BILL's lovely wife, Janet, and their fine son, William Raymond, BILL STEIGER has a place in our hearts.

Mr. REUSS. Mr. Speaker, the death of BILL STEIGER hit close to home in every sense of the word.

BILL's district was only 35 miles from mine, but I was aware of this remarkable young public servant long before he was elected to Congress in 1966, and even before his election to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1960.

The scion of Wisconsin's most distinguished families, BILL made his mark as a political activist while he was still in college. His election to the State assembly at 22 and his emergence as a leader in that body were timely and natural developments in a distinguished career.

By the time he took his seat in this House in 1967, those of us who knew BILL knew that we could expect from him intelligence, dedication to principle, and—even in so young a man and so new a Member—leadership.

His career amply fulfilled that early promise. He was a man of absolute integrity. He understood the needs of the people he represented, and their interests were always foremost in his mind. His voting record evidences a well-developed political philosophy combined with a knowledge of how to convert that philosophy into effective legislation.

BILL STEIGER elevated the level of discourse and debate of every issue with which he concerned himself. His sponsorship last year of capital gains tax revision demonstrated his ability to rally popular support for his position without doing violence to the issues at stake. As a result he commanded an influence unusual for a relatively junior minority Member.

The House will miss BILL STEIGER as a legislator. It will also miss him as a friend. His unfailing good humor and genuine modesty made him as popular among his colleagues as he was respected.

We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Janet Steiger, his son, Billy, and the Steiger family of Oshkosh. BILL relied heavily upon his lovely wife's judgment and advice. Her wisdom and insight entitles her to an important role in public affairs in her own right.

Mr. PREYER. Mr. Speaker, a number of our colleagues have quoted tributes to BILL from the press. In fact, few Members of Congress have ever received the kind of tributes from editorial writers and columnists that have come BILL's way. Such expressions are normally reserved for a Speaker of the House.

They are especially significant because BILL didn't court the press, or seek publicity. He just did his job very well and conscientiously. The press recognized those qualities which we have long admired in BILL in the House—that he was a gentleman, a legislative craftsman, an enthusiastic believer in the House of Representatives.

He worked hard and fought hard. But he always cut square corners.

He was an inspiration to our young people. His presence was living proof that the stereotype of the Congressman as old fogie was a lie. He assured young people that there was a place in Congress for one who was young, idealistic, able, and enthusiastic. He was living proof that Congress was a place that could meet their highest aspirations.

All of us extend our sincerest sympathy to his family and hope they will take some comfort in the respect and esteem in which BILL was held by his colleagues and by our Nation.

Mr. ADDABBO. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in expressing my deep sorrow at the untimely passing of our colleague, BILL STEIGER of Wisconsin, and I offer my condolences to his family for this great loss.

It is always sad when the young die needlessly, but in this case—with the excellent record already achieved by BILL and with the years of potential service still facing him—the loss is doubly sad, not only for his family and his friends but for the Nation he served.

There are men who are naturally born to public life, and BILL STEIGER was one of those. An activist from his campus days onward, BILL gravitated naturally into political life and, as anyone who has followed his career knows, he flourished in this environment.

In his work on the House Ways and Means Committee, BILL quickly established a reputation for quiet and dignified hard work.

His was not the way of the florid press release and the attention-getting statement. Rather, he specialized in the hard analysis that resulted in key legislation. As a new member on the minority side of the Ways and Means Committee, he nevertheless played a major role in shaping tax legislation; this was totally a result of his hard work and dedication. BILL, in everything he did, worked harder than almost anyone else and he tried, perhaps more successfully than most of us, to resolve dilemmas through the use of logic.

Personally, BILL STEIGER was as enjoyable a man to know and to be with as any who have ever served in this distinguished House. I think it is possible to say that at his death, BILL did not leave one single enemy in this great body. Instead, on both sides of the aisle, he left friends who were impressed by his decency, his humor, and his basic good will toward everyone he came in touch with.

His death is a distinct blow to this Nation and to the people he represented in Wisconsin. But as I said in the beginning, he played a role far larger than that of a midwestern representative. Because he worked so hard and because he cared so much for the people of this Nation, his work received national attention, and had he lived we could have expected great things from him.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, it was with the greatest regret that I had learned of the untimely death of our colleague, WILLIAM A. STEIGER.

BILL was an exceptional young man. For six terms he provided superb representation of the views and needs of the people of his district. Yet he succeeded at the same time in accomplishing much toward the betterment of the rest of the country as well. His leadership most recently toward a reduction of the capital gains tax was marked by the diligence and intelligence with which he always approached his work in Congress.

BILL was first elected 2 years after I had been, and it was an honor to serve with him these past 12 years on this side of the aisle. His presence and wisdom will be missed.

Kathleen and I offer our condolences to his wife and son and other members of his family; we share their sorrow at BILL's passing.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heart full of sorrow that we take this time today to pay a fond remembrance of a fine gentleman, BILL STEIGER. It is with joy that we feel when we think about the personal experience we have had to have been able to serve here and work with such a fine man as he was.

I first met BILL in 1966 when we were both candidates for House seats. We were both first elected that year and joined this body as first termers in the 90th Congress. He was the youngest Member of our class and the youngest in the Congress. His youth never prevented him from very early becoming one of the outstanding Members.

His district, his State, and our Nation have lost a great public servant. We all will miss him very much.

Our prayers are with his wife, Janet, and his family.

Mr. BROOMFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in expressing the great sorrow felt at the loss of our friend, the Honorable WILLIAM A. STEIGER of Wisconsin.

Many in this Nation hold Congress and politicians in low esteem. Yet BILL STEIGER, through his life and work, showed that those attitudes must be reconsidered, for he lent dignity and honor to this body and to those who serve in it.

When BILL STEIGER came to the House of Representatives 12 years ago, he came as its youngest Member. Although he was afflicted with diabetes, he gave his all to politics and public office. His hard work, sound mind, and dedication quickly increased his stature and influence among his colleagues.

Because of his devotion to this institution and to public service, BILL worked unstintingly to improve the work of the House of Representatives. Even though he often received job offers that would have given far greater financial security to his family, BILL always turned them down to do the work he believed in and loved.

During the last Congress, BILL's name began to gain national prominence as he led the successful fight to reduce the capital gains tax. In this effort, he effectively took on the President and the majority party leadership because he firmly believed that this tax cut was truly in the public interest.

Although BILL's name is best known for the capital gains tax fight, he was also instrumental in shaping other pieces of major legislation. Among these are the program providing legal services for the poor, the ending of the draft and the institution of the volunteer Army.

When BILL STEIGER passed away, the people, the Nation, and the Congress lost a truly great public servant. As we watched BILL work, we saw great things in his future. Now that future has been cut short and we mourn the passing of a friend. We will truly miss him.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my heartfelt sympathies to the Steiger family and to all his friends who share in his loss.

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my distinguished colleague, Hon. Clement J. Zablocki, of the Fourth District of Wisconsin, in paying tribute to the Honorable WILLIAM A. STEIGER, who represented the people of the Sixth District of Wisconsin during the 90th through the 95th Congress: The death of my outstanding colleague at the age of 40 has left a void in this House, for he served his Wisconsin constituents and the American people with devotion and dedication.

BILL STEIGER began his career of leadership in Wisconsin as a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1960 through 1966, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In the years 1968, 1972, and 1976, he was designated one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in America by the Jaycees.

During his distinguished service in the House before he was cut down in the prime of his career, Congressman STEIGER served on the House Ways and Means Committee, and was also instrumental in the congressional passage of legislation establishing the all-volunteer Army. His record of excellence and creative accomplishment was most commendable.

WILLIAM A. STEIGER was a man of deep conviction, independent in thought and action, and was willing to challenge any person or institution in the pursuit of his high ideals and what he thought was right for his people, and he will certainly be missed here in Congress.

Mrs. Annunzio and I extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Janet, and to his son, William Raymond.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Mr. Speaker, the sudden, shocking loss of BILL STEIGER came at a point in his life at which he was finally beginning to receive the type of public recognition he has so long deserved.

In any organization, there are those who receive a good deal of publicity but do little to deserve it. There are others who receive little publicity, but work long and hard behind the scenes. BILL was one of the latter group.

He was among those who were most surprised when the Steiger amendment began to catch fire and media attention. He was among those who were most deserving of that attention.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we use a word so often that it begins to lose its meaning. In this Chamber we preface many of our remarks to a colleague by calling him or her "my good friend," when indeed we may not be friends at all. BILL STEIGER was my good friend. He was a good friend to many of us, because that was his nature.

There are too few Bill Steigers in this world. We could ill afford to lose the one we had.

Mr. JOHNSON of California. Mr. Speaker, BILL STEIGER was one of the finest men to have served in the House of Representatives. It was indeed most unfortunate that he did not have the opportunity to fully develop his career in public life.

BILL came to the House of Representatives at an early age and soon showed that he had the intelligence and the commonsense to handle the job and be an effective voice not only for his district in Wisconsin, but also for the people of the Nation.

Much has been written about his important contributions, and they have been many, particularly when one considers the amount of time in which they were achieved. I cannot add to those fine renditions, but simply want to add my personal testament to his fine work.

BILL STEIGER served on the Education and Labor Committee and the Ways and Means Committee during his service in the House of Representatives. Through his committee assignments he worked continuously for reform and improvement of our Government and its services to the people.

He also worked for improved operation of the House of Representatives within the processes of his party and through bipartisan efforts to review and modernize House procedures.

BILL was an active legislator making many significant proposals and working to seek legislative compromises to assure passage of important legislation.

Although I never had the privilege of serving as a committee colleague of his, I knew BILL as a friend and colleague in the House. He was, without a doubt, one of the brightest and most congenial persons to serve among us. It is particularly sad that he has left us, because he was only beginning to realize his tremendous potential as a leader and legislator.

To his wife and family, my wife, Albra, and I extend our deepest sympathy. We hope that the knowledge of his fine accomplishments and great respect in the House will give them comfort in these difficult days.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, BILL STEIGER was a special and gentle kind of man. We do not see enough like him in politics—able and willing to listen to both sides of a question, able and willing to compromise, a man who treated his opposition as good friends.

BILL was always the gentleman. He had civility and intelligence—and wit—in superabundance. Certainly, he left his mark in these Halls. The memory is a good and a decent one, for BILL was a good and decent man.

I never knew anyone with more friends. If BILL STEIGER had an enemy or detractor on Capitol Hill, I never saw him. Perhaps, in the long run, that is enough to remember a man by—the way he treated his fellow human beings.

I am glad I knew BILL STEIGER. I am proud that we were friends.

Mr. WINN. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to join my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle as they pay tribute to the memory of our friend, the late WILLIAM STEIGER, of Wisconsin.

It was my pleasure to know BILL STEIGER since we both came here in the 90th Congress.

BILL STEIGER tried to hold down Government spending, show concern about the American taxpayer, and just in general keep the Ways and Means Committee responsive to the people.

His statements and challenges to the statements of others on the floor prove that BILL STEIGER was the type of Congressman who was definitely concerned about the American taxpayer and all American citizens.

He served his district, his State, and his Nation with distinction. BILL STEIGER was the kind of man who was destined for national leadership, and his untimely death was a loss to the Nation.

I read George Will's eulogy of BILL STEIGER, and I felt it was the kind of tribute which this bright and energetic young man truly deserved.

He was kind, thoughtful, hard working, untiring, and respected by all those who knew him. I feel that it was an honor to have known and worked with a man of BILL STEIGER's caliber. He will be missed by all of those who knew him.

Joan and I offer our deepest sympathy to Janet, their son, Bill, and his parents.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of the Honorable WILLIAM A. STEIGER. We have all lost a good friend, and the House has lost a

Congressman who represented his constituents with tremendous integrity and ability.

He will long be remembered as a man of the highest ideals, and it is a great tragedy that his career was cut off before he had the opportunity to accomplish all of the things he was capable of doing and wanted to do.

As a public servant, BILL always did his very best to truly serve the people, both in the Wisconsin Legislature and in the U.S. Congress. His contributions in the Ways and Means Committee were immeasurable, and his loss will be deeply felt.

The outstanding work BILL did in carving out new pathways for freedom and the free enterprise system is a shining example for others to follow, and his record in the Congress shows his dedication and determination.

We will all miss him, and Mrs. Quillen joins me in extending our deepest sympathy to his family for their great loss.

Mr. BROYHILL. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened that, as the 96th Congress gets underway, our friend and colleague, BILL STEIGER, won't be here with us to share his innovative and imaginative ideas. BILL was a hard-working, independent-minded man who will be sorely missed by all of us on Capitol Hill and by his numerous friends throughout Wisconsin. He served his district with excellence, and his dedication to the betterment of our country was always foremost in his thoughts and actions. BILL was not afraid to try new ideas, and his accomplishments were many and great in his young life.

His loss will affect each of us, and I am deeply saddened by his passing. Mrs. Broyhill and I extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends but, at the same time, we feel very thankful at having had the opportunity to know and work with this fine individual.

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, if any one quality comes to mind when I reflect on Representative BILL STEIGER's outstanding career in the House, it is his remarkable ability to strike a compromise, to find a solution acceptable to all parties involved. We watched him work effectively in the Ways and Means Committee, and we benefited from his efforts on the floor. Energetic, dedicated, and creative, BILL STEIGER had a real love for this body as an institution, and certainly demonstrated this on a daily basis. He strove with a great sense of commitment to formulate workable solutions to the many controversial issues facing the Congress and found support on both sides of

the aisle. In times where a myriad of divergent interests are fragmenting this legislative body, BILL STEIGER's gift of compromise was indeed rare and precious. As my good friend and distinguished colleague Dave Obey has pointed out, BILL STEIGER was "the Republican who was the most effective bridge between the parties in Congress." I am very proud to have served alongside Representative BILL STEIGER. He was certainly an encouragement to all of us here—an outstanding Member and a fine person.

Mr. COLLINS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. Conable) for yielding and giving me an opportunity to add my respects to BILL STEIGER. Everyone that knew BILL loved him. And everyone that worked with him in Congress respected him very highly. I was the last one to join him in the great class of the 90th Congress.

BILL was well liked because he was always cordial and he had a cheerful smile that was an uplift to all of us.

Of all the legislation that BILL worked on, it seems that every session he concentrated on a stronger and more powerful area.

We lost BILL STEIGER after he had successfully led the way this past session for tax reduction. Congress had postponed action. But BILL brought up basic ideas on tax reduction that were absolutely essential to our economy.

In America we are not creating enough new capital, and we are not encouraging the reinvestment of capital. He spoke, he wrote, and he pounded the table in behalf of a lower capital gains tax that would encourage people in their capital transactions.

Under BILL STEIGER's leadership we went a long way toward reducing the capital gains tax. We lost BILL, but I felt like in 1979 he would have led Congress all the way for a complete tax reduction.

BILL was named one of the outstanding young men in America, and the young-man spirit stayed with him always. His vitality and enthusiasm were stimulating. He had a spring in his step and a vibrance in his speech. We will always remember BILL with the progressive spirit, as he was always moving forward.

Dee and I extend our sincerest sympathy to his wife, Janet, and his young son, William. Wisconsin has lost one of the greatest Representatives that ever served in Congress when we lost the great son of Wisconsin, BILL STEIGER.

Mr. KEMP. Mr. Speaker, the House and the Nation were stunned during the adjournment period by the untimely death of our col-

league, BILL STEIGER. BILL was only 40 years of age, but he had just been reelected to his seventh term, having been first elected in 1966 at the age of 28.

BILL was a persistent worker. He knew how to work with his colleagues, one by one and from both parties, and he knew how to work within the committee system to win approval of legislation whose enactment he was seeking. That he was successful in this approach is evidenced by the fact that he won almost everything he sought in the way of capital gains tax rate reductions in the 95th Congress. That was his primary target. He had other items on his agenda, but that was the big one, and he died with the satisfaction of having seen it come to pass.

BILL was a man of commitment, of conviction. He was willing to address old, unresolved questions, and he was often able to devise new answers for old questions. He had a vision of government and political parties responsive to the needs of the people, a vision where government would remove the impediments to meeting those needs, rather than worsening them through misdirected good intentions, a vision brought forth from a vibrant two-party system.

BILL was a man of knowledge. He educated a great number of important people—his colleagues, the media, even economists and administration officials—on the relationship between taxes and economic growth. More people in positions to shape public policy are now aware that higher taxes do not mean higher revenues if a point has been reached where those tax rates impede incentive. Capital gains tax rates were an example of that. BILL knew the relationship between taxes and economic growth, and he knew that high taxes stunt the growth essential to helping those at the bottom of our economic ladder, and he never tired of making that point. He had a deep sense of commitment to those who did not enjoy the full bounty of our system.

BILL created for us a sense of purpose behind critically important issues, and even in death he does that again, creating a community of those who knew him, who may not have known each other but do know a bond of common sorrow and shared memory. He died as we should remember him; young and productive. He, his enthusiasm, and his commitment will be sorely missed.

I am reminded of Lord Byron's words, "Those whom God loves, die young." The sooner to be with Him.

My sympathy, that of my wife, Joanne, and our family are extended to his widow, Janet, and their young son.

I wish to include a moving tribute to BILL, one written by our mutual friend, George Will:

POLITICS—AS STEIGER PRACTICED IT

(By George F. Will)

Journalism, it has been said, often involves reporting "Mr. Smith is dead" to people who never knew that Mr. Smith was alive. But that often is important. The end of exemplary lives should not go unremarked.

Many Americans do not even know the name of their own congressman, and few Americans knew of the congressman from Wisconsin's Sixth District. But there are more than a few Republicans who, if asked why they are Republicans, would reply, briefly but sufficiently, "BILL STEIGER." They especially, but not they alone, know what the Republican Party, and the republic, lost when WILLIAM STEIGER died in his sleep at age 40.

When STEIGER came to Congress 12 years ago, he was the youngest member. When he died, he was the youngest looking member. But any tendency to think of him as "boyish" did not survive the bracing experience of matching wits and wills with him.

When, early this year, STEIGER submitted his amendment to lower taxation on capital gains, the Carter administration was ardently, not to say hysterically, opposed. But what STEIGER began resulted, after compromises, in rate reduction. It was an example of what one exceptional man, aroused and patient and right, can do.

I first met STEIGER early in this decade when the senator for whom I worked (Gordon Allott of Colorado) became interested in passing the military-pay proposals that were a prerequisite for the transition from conscription to all-volunteer armed forces. STEIGER had been at work on the problem for several years, and no one in Washington was more ready for battle.

The issues of conscription and capital gains, one early and one late in his career, do not tell the full story of his career, but they summarize the theme of his Republicanism. He was concerned with liberating the nation's productive energies, including energy in the form of capital and, where possible, supplanting coercion with incentives.

Politics when done wrong, and when done right, can be a consuming profession. It is consuming for those whose eyes are always on higher office—who are consumed by ambition as by fire. More admirably, and more rarely, politics is consuming for those, like STEIGER, who do justice to their great work of making laws for a free people.

Congress has its share of members who coast, content to derive their satisfactions from the perquisites of office. But the minority side of the House Ways and Means Committee has recently been to Congress what Sugar Ray Robinson was to boxing: pound-for-pound, the best fighting force. And STEIGER, an initiating spirit, was among its best members.

It would be doing less than justice to STEIGER to say only that he was a superb legislative craftsman. He also resembled another bundle of useful energy from the upper Midwest. It may seem like a contradiction in terms to speak of anyone as a "Republican Hubert Humphrey," but STEIGER exemplified what Humphrey called "the politics of joy." Plainly put, he loved his profession, and it showed.

What Burke said of a nation is true, too, of a profession: To be loved it must be lovely. Politics as STEIGER practiced it—intelligent, passionate and amused—was lovely. People who remember him as a paperboy in Oshkosh remember that he always aimed to be a congressman.

A few years ago he was offered a job in the private sector at a substantial increase in salary, and he was tempted to take it for his family's sake. His nine-year-old son frequently went up to Capitol Hill, quietly drawing pictures and watching his father work. Politics is a profession that often exacts a terrible price from families, but as a colleague said of STEIGER: "We all admired the father in him."

The capriciousness of fate moved Yeats to write:

Some think it a matter of course that chance
Should starve good men and bad advance.

It was not chance that advanced STEIGER to the front rank of his party and his profession. But chance has done what only chance could do: It has prevented him from completing what would have been one of the most distinguished careers Congress has known.

Mr. FORSYTHE. Mr. Speaker, upon my arrival in Washington 9 years ago as a new Member of Congress, one Member in particular impressed me with his thoughtful and intelligent examination of the problems on which the Congress was working. That man was BILL STEIGER.

Over the next 8 years I found that my first observations of him were proven accurate. He was a fine example of what a Member of Congress should be. BILL never failed to bring fair, compassionate judgment to his work, and his sense of humor often served to lighten a mood or ease the tension after long hours of meetings, votes on the House floor, and committee hearings.

His ability to coalesce support for a piece of legislation and his willingness to work unswervingly to see it enacted was never better demonstrated than last year. He went to battle against a Democratic administration and a majority of Democrats in the House to reduce the capital gains tax, and he won.

BILL never worked for personal glory or name recognition in the media, but his ability was widely recognized. His potential as a national leader was great. His death was untimely. As Members of

Congress we will miss him personally, but the Nation will also suffer from the lack of his leadership, and that is the greatest loss.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the untimely death of BILL STEIGER deeply saddens me, and this feeling has been especially acute this past week as the members of the Ways and Means Committee have met to consider its business. BILL was an honored colleague and a good friend, and I know his passing is a loss not only to the State of Wisconsin, but to the Congress and to the country. In a time when many feel that there is not enough leadership in our political process, we can ill afford this loss. The famous Steiger amendment is testimony to the leadership qualities that he possessed.

Some men learn to lead during the course of their life, but it is obvious that with BILL this trait came naturally. Those of us who have served in this House long enough to remember know that, when BILL was elected to the 90th Congress, he was the youngest Member among us. The Jaycees certainly recognized this talent in 1968, when they designated BILL STEIGER as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in America. We should all thank the citizens of the Sixth Congressional District of Wisconsin for choosing BILL STEIGER to serve here with us, and giving us the opportunity to know him. Theirs was a wise decision, and one that we have all benefited from. Thank you.

Mr. VANIK. Mr. Speaker, during the past 12 years it has been my special privilege to serve with BILL STEIGER, but during the last 2 years, I had a special opportunity to come to know this distinguished American. During the 95th Congress, we served as chairman and ranking minority member on the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee. During those brief 2 years, BILL and I had the opportunity to work together in a wonderful spirit of close cooperation. His energy, his brightness, intelligence, and wit were a constant source of encouragement and creativity for all of us on the Trade Subcommittee and in the full Ways and Means Committee. Much of the legislation we passed or advanced in the last Congress is strictly due to his genius and love of creativity.

During the congressional adjournment, in the week of his death, we were planning a hearing on one of his ideas—ways to encourage increased U.S. exports. This was typical of his constant energy and desire to do more to improve the quality of government and to serve the national interest. He saw the inadequacies of the present programs as a springboard from which new and better programs could be built.

He was anxious to use his time to pursue the public good, even during periods of recess when committees seldom meet. For BILL STEIGER, there was no recess in his efforts for public service.

This is my 25th year in the House, and I have said all too many goodbyes and eulogies to friends. But thinking of what to say this morning, I found this the hardest goodbye of all, for most who have left here leave by choice or after a full and rounded life. But BILL's life was just beginning. We all assumed he was destined to a long and ever-greater career of contribution to the Nation. His outstanding intellect was a bright and stable star among us—we did not dream he would be taken from us at so early an age—that he was like a shooting star, burning up in a blaze of excellence, showing us a path of creativity and genius.

Lincoln is attributed with the phrase:

If we could first know where we were and whither we were tending, we could better judge what to do and how to do it.

This has been quoted over the years, because it expresses in beautifully constructed English a very commonsense but deliberate, thoughtful approach to solving human problems. BILL STEIGER was a genius for asking—and then answering—these fundamental questions. He could isolate and define a problem, state a goal, and suggest ways “to go together” to a solution better than any other I have known.

“Congress” comes from the Latin, “to go together”—to find ways to compromise for the common good. Understanding and tolerance for others' views usually comes only with age, and from this understanding comes the gift of finding creative compromise.

BILL had this gift. Yet BILL was not old in age—only old in wisdom and in understanding. He achieved more principled compromises and solutions in his brief time with us than many deans of the House obtained in half a century of service.

He taught us how to be better legislators and how to listen better to each other.

The editorials which have appeared throughout the Nation on BILL STEIGER have described, better than I can, the gift of enthusiasm that he gave to so many for public service. This, too, is one of his most lasting contributions. He touched the lives of thousands and made them zealous in public spirit. This inspiration that he gave to so many will be felt through generations of renewed service to the public and the Nation.

This legacy will help us and this institution—but I also hope that it will one day bring “Billy” Steiger to this Chamber to complete his father’s work.

Mr. PERKINS. Mr. Speaker, it is always sad to learn of the passing of a colleague with whom we have served in the House. But it was especially sad when word came of the untimely death last month of WILLIAM A. STEIGER.

He was so able, so decent, so wise—and so young.

BILL was hardly more than a boy when he came to us a dozen years ago, but already he had made a distinguished name for himself in his home State of Wisconsin.

We have all seen cases in which honors, achieved at an early age, seem to engender arrogance and pompousness. But not so with BILL STEIGER.

He seemed to sense that pitfall, and went far out of his way to exercise patience, tolerance, understanding, and especially kindness. His health was precarious from childhood, and it may be that this gave him special insight into human frailty in others.

As a new Member in 1967, he was assigned to the Committee on Education and Labor the same month I became chairman. He was ever helpful, ever cooperative. And even on those occasions when we disagreed on a matter of legislation before us, BILL STEIGER would never, never stoop to cheap obstructionism.

He was wise enough to recognize that in a representative assembly, such as ours, men and women must compromise their differences for the benefit of all.

A hard worker, a genuine seeker after the facts, BILL approached a legislative problem analytically and reasonably. He ably and articulately presented his views on matters, and was never personally offended with those who expressed different views.

I was sorry indeed when he went off our committee and onto the Committee on Ways and Means. That did not prevent frequent contacts with him, and we worked together on many related matters with the same ease as before.

BILL’s little boy is not yet 10 years old, but somehow, I hope he understands that his father was a unique figure in the Congress and a great man in his country. I hope that the knowledge that BILL was so universally esteemed by his colleagues offers some degree of consolation to his family.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that custom and usage erode the meaning of phrases frequently used in congressional procedures—phrases such as the distinguished gentleman, or the gentleman, or my friend.

But I mean it from the heart when I say that I regret the passing of my friend, and that I shall miss the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. LAGOMARSINO. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. Conable) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Zablocki) for taking this special order to permit us to express our respect for and our sadness at the passing of BILL STEIGER. There have been and there are many Members of this House who demand great respect for their legislative skill and ability; and there are and there have been many Members of this House who are very popular with their colleagues here in the House. But I think very seldom have we had a combination of those two traits to the extent that we had in BILL STEIGER. As the gentleman who just spoke commented, I certainly do not know anyone who did not like BILL STEIGER, and all of those participating in this special order today make that very clear and very apparent.

Certainly there are very few Members of this House who are as effective as BILL was. Even though sometimes we did not all agree with him, I think that there were many times when we knew that what he was saying was right even though we, perhaps, for one reason or another, did not vote the same way he was voting or did not take the same action that he was proposing.

As I was sitting here thinking of what I might say about BILL STEIGER, one thing occurred to me very quickly, and that was, I do not think I ever saw BILL STEIGER without a smile on his face—never, and yet—apparently I did not know this; maybe the rest of the Members did—I did not know that he had the illness that finally claimed his life, and one certainly would never know that from watching him or listening to him or being around him. Certainly if there is any lesson to this at all—and sometimes we wonder if there is—I guess it is that BILL STEIGER epitomized a lot of things that many of us would do well to remember and to try to emulate.

I would like his wife, Janet, his son, Billy, and his father, Carl, to know that my wife and I are thinking of them and our prayers are with them.

Mr. HORTON. Mr. Speaker, it was with a sense of deep sadness that we learned of BILL STEIGER's death on December 4, 1978, at the

age of 40. Since 1966, when he was first elected to the House of Representatives, BILL represented Wisconsin's Sixth Congressional District with distinction and dedication.

Although BILL and I did not serve on the same full committee, I did have the privilege of working with him on the Ad Hoc Committee on Energy and the conference committees that followed during the 95th Congress. For more than a year, the conferees labored long and hard over the many controversial provisions of the National Energy Act. I know my colleagues in that effort recall, as I do, the determination with which BILL sought to shape the final sections of the act.

BILL STEIGER may best be remembered for his controversial proposal to reduce substantially the tax on capital gains. Despite opposition from a number of sources, the final 1978 tax bill approved by Congress contained a capital gains tax based largely on BILL's proposal.

I know his colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee will sorely miss the activist role BILL played on the committee. By the same token, the 96th Congress will be without one of its most able legislators.

Mr. CHARLES H. WILSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my own tribute to the many others made on behalf of our former colleague, BILL STEIGER. His untimely death will be felt not only in Wisconsin's Sixth District but in the Halls of Congress as well.

BILL skyrocketed into the national limelight last Congress during our deliberations on the tax bill. To those of us who worked with him, that attention came as no surprise. Whether you agreed with his position or not, no one could dispute the fact that BILL STEIGER was one of the hardest working Members of the House. Any debate is only as good as its participants. Judging from the reaction to his capital gains tax proposal, BILL was an extremely worthy opponent.

While the rest of the country may remember the Steiger amendment, his friends, colleagues, and associates knew his scope and interest went far beyond tax issues. He brought the same kind of dedication and hard work that distinguished his involvement in the tax bill to every issue.

His understanding and knowledge of a bill and his understanding of those working with him enabled him to go beyond partisan lines and work well on both sides of the aisle.

He contributed a great deal in the area of occupational safety, help for our youth, and for the poor and underprivileged. His sincerity and belief in the people of this country is unquestioned and will remain a model for all of us.

Last, BILL STEIGER was a legislator's legislator—he truly loved his job. Watching him work in committee, on the floor, or with constituents, his enthusiasm for the process and the job he held was obvious.

He was a rare kind of politician who did not get bogged down in partisan politics but worked for the common good of everyone. His presence will be sorely missed.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden death of my good friend, BILL STEIGER. The news of his death at the early age of 40 struck me as if life itself had been snuffed out, for he epitomized life in its fullest and most intense sense; he had a real joy for living and working, and that joy was contagious to all those who knew him. BILL was one of the brightest stars of our party, and that star was still on the rise at the time of his tragic death.

BILL came to this House in 1967, but he landed here squarely on his feet and was off and running immediately. His presence was immediately felt, for he threw himself fully into every project he undertook and made a lasting impression and contribution by his industry, his intellect, and his intensity. He loved this House and learned its ways quickly. He was always in the forefront of efforts to improve this institution—a truly progressive reformer in the best sense of the Wisconsin political tradition from which he sprung. He was one of the most active Members of that group of Republican reformers in the House known as Rumsfeld's Raiders, who finally forced consideration of what was to become the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970. He later served with equal enthusiasm and dedication on the next major reform attempt, the Bolling-Martin Select Committee on Committees. His successful efforts in making the Congressional Record a more accurate account of our proceedings are also well known. He was equally zealous in his efforts to reform the Republican Party and devoted countless hours to that cause.

But beyond being an expert on procedural matters, BILL STEIGER was a consummate legislator as he so frequently demonstrated on the

Education and Labor Committee, and later on the Ways and Means and Ad Hoc Energy Committees. He was a man of substance and a true technician and politician when it came to dealing with the substantive aspects of legislation. Whether it was the all-volunteer Army, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, or the capital gains tax revision, he left his personal imprint on all the major bills he worked on.

My heartfelt sympathies go out to his wife, Janet, his son, Billy, his father, and family. We share in their grief and loss of a truly great man who represented everything that was good as a husband, a father, a son, and a Member of this body. He was the type of person whom A. E. Housman had in mind when he wrote of, "the lads that will die in their glory and never be old." BILL STEIGER will forever be young in our hearts, and his glory will live in eternity.

Mr. MARTIN. Mr. Speaker, it is tradition and custom that bring us to the floor to eulogize departed colleagues. It is a good tradition and a fine custom because every life and every death can be instructive. This is particularly true in the case of BILL STEIGER.

The grief felt on this Hill and elsewhere in this country on the passing of BILL STEIGER was profound and sincere. BILL thrived on controversy, and that meant opponents aplenty; but he had no enemy.

By age 35, BILL had major legislation under his belt, the enacted substitute Occupational Safety and Health Act, legislation considerably better in its drafting than in its enforcement. A suitable memorial would be to bring the latter up to the standards of the former. That "Steiger Substitute" gave BILL a national constituency. In 1978, by age 40, BILL STEIGER authored legislation that led directly to the capital gains tax reforms of the Revenue Act of 1978, and the name BILL STEIGER was a household word among homeowners.

In spite of all that, BILL STEIGER was not dashing off to New Hampshire's primary. Not only did he like his work here, or love it, but he knew the need to avoid vaulting ambition. Were BILL to have lived, I believe he would someday have been the President of this country. He had the brains for the job, the capacity to get the job, and it would have come to him in spite of his lack of craving for adulation.

What is instructive in the House career of BILL STEIGER is how he came to enjoy it. The more common comment about service here

is that it is no longer fun. You never heard that moan from BILL; he relished it. Those who spend time bemoaning the absence of fun in Congress should take note of two facts. First, some can make any activity a crashing bore; it is fairly easy to do if preceded by the loss of one's zest for life and sense of humor. Second, conversely, if you follow BILL's pattern and create challenges and do not make a holy crusade out of every semicolon you write, the chances are pretty good this job can be fun and you will succeed.

There is another factor in BILL STEIGER's life that he dealt with as forthrightly, openly, and publicly as with any other subject. Had he not, I would not dream of mentioning it. But he did, so I do. BILL STEIGER was a diabetic. So are millions of other Americans. So what? So, it is less of a bar to achievement than it is to others' perception of one's ability to achieve. BILL is a good case to remember in dealing with the economic bias against hiring a diabetic because it would raise the group health insurance rate. Perhaps the publicity given BILL's inability to get insurance may be just what we need to start insurance regulators moving on applying the assigned risk pool concept to health and life insurance, so that those now uninsurable because of a chronic illness can be covered. It borders on blasphemy that such a concept is applied to pleasure cars and not to human health.

BILL STEIGER is gone and we mourn his passing. There is meaning for us in his life and in his death if we will but learn from it.

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Speaker, I remember BILL STEIGER with respect and admiration. He was one of America's top Congressmen without any doubt.

It was my privilege to not only know BILL STEIGER on the floor, but to work closely with him in two subcommittees on Ways and Means.

BILL STEIGER was dynamic. He was a fine speaker. His distinguished, yet all too brief career, demonstrates his natural leadership capabilities.

They say that when BILL STEIGER first came to the House in 1966 at the ripe age of 28, some people mistook him for a page. Yet, he was actually a seasoned officeholder, having served 6 years in the Wisconsin Legislature. Before that, he was a leader in the National College Young Republicans. And he was an up-and-coming young businessman.

We sat on opposite sides of the aisles in this Chamber. He was of the minority party and I, the majority party. But BILL STEIGER involved himself tirelessly in service to his constituents. Everyone, regardless of party or political orientation, got to respect and love BILL STEIGER. He was a high-type fellow.

In this age when many citizens look with disdain on officeholders, the example of BILL STEIGER comes to mind as an instant rejoinder to anyone who questions the capacity for decency and honesty in politics.

The Sixth District of Wisconsin gave us this great man. His family's loss and the district's loss is truly our loss. BILL STEIGER entered this Chamber as an already experienced politician. He quickly proved himself to be a natural-born leader. And, he left us far too soon as a statesman.

If BILL STEIGER had been living in our early American history days, he would have been one of the Alexander Hamiltons or Thomas Jeffersons of that day. His sharp and inquisitive mind, his refusal to accept simple statements without examining it in his own mind, and his active, hard-working discipline made him a natural leader. What a tragedy it is that our country lost him so early. Our committee will not be the same, the Congress will not be the same, and our country will not be the same without BILL STEIGER. I doubt this Congress even yet realizes how badly we have been hurt. But, we also have been helped by the life of this good man and we should all thank the Lord that—every now and then—a man or woman comes to Congress who can make a difference. BILL STEIGER made such a difference, and our country is better for it.

We mourn the loss of this great man, but also feel lucky that we had a chance to know and work with him. May the memory of BILL STEIGER have an uplifting, cleansing effect on the work we do in the Congress.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I know that many of my colleagues were saddened by the passing of the late Congressman WILLIAM A. STEIGER. His following was not limited to the Congress of the United States. In December 1978, a special session of the Wisconsin Legislature paid tribute to Congressman STEIGER by passing Joint Resolution 47.

I am pleased to make this joint resolution a part of the Congressional Record:

WISCONSIN'S OWN TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM STEIGER—1977 ENROLLED
JOINT RESOLUTION 47

Relating to the life and public service of WILLIAM A. STEIGER

The legislature and the people of Wisconsin are deeply grieved by the passing on December 4, 1978, of WILLIAM A. STEIGER, member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the 6th Congressional district since 1966.

WILLIAM STEIGER was born on May 15, 1938, in Oshkosh. He graduated from Oshkosh High School and received a bachelor's degree in economics from the university of Wisconsin-Madison in 1960. He was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Ripon College in 1974 and Lakeland College in 1975.

Mr. STEIGER was an active republican during his college years, becoming national chairman of the College Young Republicans in 1959, a post he held until 1961. He had also served on the governor of Wisconsin's Youth Advisory Board to the Commission on Human Rights.

The people of the first district of Winnebago County elected Mr. STEIGER to the assembly in 1960. He was 22 years old, one of the youngest legislators in the state's history. A state representative for 3 terms, he concentrated chiefly on 2 issues, education and taxation. He also played a major role in in 1965 law which reorganized and modernized legislative staff services.

In 1966, at the age of 28, Mr. STEIGER was elected to the House of Representatives. He was the youngest Republican to serve in the 90th Congress. Reelected 6 times, Representative STEIGER became known for his independent voting record, thus defying attempts at pigeonholing by political observers. In 1971 he was part of the move to end the military draft and establish a volunteer army. He sponsored the Vocational Educational Act of 1968, the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, the Manpower Training Act and the Clean Lakes Act of 1970. He was also at the forefront of reform attempts in the House, calling for televising House proceedings, streamlining the committee system and revising the Congressional Record into a verbatim transcript of representatives' remarks.

Representative STEIGER was named by Time Magazine in 1974 as one of 200 rising leaders in the U.S. He was a man of rare courage and integrity and a dedicated public servant. His passing constitutes a great loss to the people of his community, his state, and the nation.

In recognition of his record of public service and exemplary life, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the Senate concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature express their sorrow at the death of WILLIAM A. STEIGER, and extend their most sincere sympathy to his family, which includes his wife, Janet, his son, William Raymond, his parents, his 3 sisters, and his brother; and be it further

Resolved, That duly attested copies of this resolution be transmitted to Mrs. Janet Steiger, his wife, and to Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Steiger, his parents.

Mr. RITTER. Mr. Speaker, a large number of my colleagues have, over the past few days, joined in praising the character and dedication of the late BILL STEIGER, who represented his constituents in the Sixth District of Wisconsin so well for 13 years. I would like to

associate myself with my colleagues' remarks, and to add my own personal tribute to BILL STEIGER.

BILL was one of those very special Members of Congress who was much more than simply a politician. He was a legislator in the very best sense of the word. And at the same time he was a man who considered his work on Capitol Hill as more than just a job—he threw all his energy and enthusiasm into his work, and the respect he gained from Members of all political persuasions tells his story better than any written tribute can.

Although I never had the honor of serving in Congress with BILL STEIGER, I know from personal experience what kind of a man he was. Still, I deeply regret that I will not have the benefit of his friendship and his talents as a colleague in the 96th Congress. In that sense, his passing was a special, personal loss to all of us in Congress.

We will not, unfortunately, have BILL as a colleague any longer. But those of us who saw the way he approached his responsibilities with zest and integrity have an example of the very best kind. We will remember BILL STEIGER's example for a long time to come.

Mr. PATTEN. Mr. Speaker, in his editorial of December 7, 1978, George F. Will said:

The end of exemplary lives should not go unremarked.

This is especially true of the man of whom we address ourselves today.

BILL STEIGER was a man I was proud to serve with in this distinguished body. When he first came to Congress, he was often mistaken for a page or a student; but not for long. He quickly became known for his drive, his intelligence, his friendliness, and his ability.

The work he did as a Member of this House has benefited all of us. In my heart, I know that the Good Lord had a reason for taking BILL; but the Nation has been left poorer with his passing. And we, here in Congress, who had the opportunity to know and work with him, have no doubts as to what this loss means to us.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, we have been saddened by the loss of our own BILL STEIGER. It is always so, especially when one is so young, so talented, and so dedicated to the service of others.

The Bible (Psalms 112: 5) tells us "a good man showeth favor and lendeth; he will guide his affairs with discretion." BILL STEIGER was just such a man. He not only guided his own affairs with discretion but used his considerable abilities and wisdom effectively to help shape the destiny of this Nation.

We will miss our friend and colleague. Let us, however, thank God for BILL's outstanding devotion, dedication, and service to this body and to people throughout the Nation.

On a personal note, having been a colleague of BILL STEIGER is a privilege I will long cherish and respect.

Mr. PASHAYAN. Mr. Speaker, there are those of us in the 96th Congress who did not have the great privilege to serve with BILL STEIGER. Yet, his tireless dedication to his country and to the free enterprise system was an example to all of us.

Too often the Federal Government becomes entrapped by its own bureaucracy and quickly loses sight that it exists for the good and at the will of the people. At all times BILL STEIGER reminded us of this basic principle of democratic government.

In addition, BILL's perspective on taxation and the American economy had the precision of a fine jeweler. Most recently his fight for a capital gains tax revision caught the imagination of businessmen, economists, and government bureaucrats everywhere. He truly laid out the blueprint for a stronger and more vibrant economy.

To BILL STEIGER's family may I extend my sincere condolences and the appreciation of a grateful Nation.

Mr. BOB WILSON. Mr. Speaker, it is always sad to mark the passing of a colleague, but it is doubly so when we lose one so young with such a potential for future accomplishments, as BILL STEIGER.

BILL was a man of high principles, who never lost sight of who he was and what he had to do. During his all-too-brief time among us, he made many significant contributions. BILL was indeed one of the "best and brightest," and he set an outstanding example that we would all do well to emulate.

We will never know to what heights BILL STEIGER would have risen, but that he would have gone on to higher positions of responsibility was a foregone conclusion, as BILL was an achiever. He did his homework, took his job seriously, and gained our respect as he worked with us toward our common goals in this House.

BILL was a warm, humorous, and intelligent man who in his short time among us left his mark. I feel a great personal loss, and I will miss him greatly as a colleague and as a friend.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share some words of tribute to the late Representative, WILLIAM STEIGER.

BILL STEIGER was an exemplary Congressman. He joined the Congress in 1966, and his ability was notable throughout his 12 years of service.

BILL and I shared common positions in chairing our respective committees on party rule during the critical period between the 1972-76 elections. As a result, we had many lively and positive exchanges on party differences. I shall miss our friendly debates, and always shall remember him as a dedicated and effective representative.

Mr. PHILLIP BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to my late colleague and friend, Representative WILLIAM STEIGER of Wisconsin.

I first met BILL STEIGER in 1959 when we served as delegates together at the Atlantic Treaty Association Conference in France.

Over the years, my affection and respect for this man grew, and I was pleased and honored to have him as a friend. His death has taken from his beautiful wife and family a warm and caring man.

The people of Wisconsin's Sixth District have lost a man with great sensitivity of their needs, and a man of enormous ability and intelligence.

His strong moral and ethical standards set an example to his colleagues and friends, and showed us that one can compromise without diminishing those standards or losing sight of an objective and principle.

He was an earnest and diligent legislator. His efforts in establishing an all-volunteer armed services and in protecting the health and safety of American workers were achievements of his legislative dedication.

He will be remembered as an open and fair man who was destined to provide the Nation with great leadership.

It has always been said that good men die young. It is our tragic loss in this sense, that BILL STEIGER should be counted among our good men.

Mr. CLEVELAND. Mr. Speaker, the recent loss of our colleague, Congressman BILL STEIGER of Wisconsin, requires much more than an expression of regret or the extension of sympathy, however deeply we may feel those sentiments.

BILL STEIGER was a unusually gifted person whose qualities and characteristics gave to his career in the Congress a significance far beyond his years and his official position. He was, in every respect, a model Congressman. In the fineness of his mind, the generosity of

his spirit, and the decency of his instincts, he represented the very best that is in the American people. His presence here elevated the substance and tone of this body to such an extent that his impact on the House deserves to be understood as widely as possible.

Perhaps what best distinguishes BILL STEIGER's contributions to the House lies in his wholehearted and thoroughgoing dedication to his work—to every aspect of his work. To him, being a Member of Congress was not just a title, or a welcome honor, or a routine job. It was a full-time occupation to which he brought all his talents and experience. He allowed it to demand his best and he responded with his best. And this, in turn, enabled him to grow in effectiveness and to earn the remarkable respect which his colleagues accorded him.

BILL STEIGER earned that respect not just because of his intelligence or his energy, his integrity or his openness, his political sophistication or his parliamentary skill. He possessed all these qualities and talents—and more—and developed them to a high degree of excellence. Rather, it was the way in which he integrated those qualities, the way in which he made each serve and support the others. For he was a whole person, and that made him better than the sum of his parts. To every effort, every project, every responsibility, he brought the full complement of professional competence and personal humaneness.

Gifted people are not always the easiest to live with. BILL STEIGER—among the most gifted—was an exception. He did not allow his intelligence to cross the line to arrogance. Persistence, with BILL STEIGER, never became stubbornness. His endless supply of energy was always under control; he was not a compulsive person. Although he was a convinced and committed Republican, one who understood the importance of political parties, he never allowed blind partisanship to outweigh reasoned judgment. Party loyalty was a means to the end of good government; it did not become for him an end in itself. Always friendly and interested and warm and generous, these qualities in BILL STEIGER were not the superficial trappings of the “hail fellow well met,” but the deeply genuine responses of a caring person. His integrity never descended to priggishness.

One of the things BILL STEIGER cared for most was the institution of the House of Representatives. The House was not a stage on which he felt compelled to perform. He did not feel obliged to contribute to the sound and fury of the Chamber. His was a voice of reason and high purpose, appropriate to his view of the House as a forum in which public policy should be determined rationally and thoughtfully. And so much of his attention was devoted to ways of strengthening

and improving the House, to make its rules and procedures better serve the needs of representative government, he worked for, as well as in this institution.

On many occasions, BILL STEIGER and I shared such efforts. As members of the Republican Task Force on Reform and Rules Change, for example, we spent many hours together seeking to accomplish purposes designed to make the House and its procedures more open and accountable, more effective, efficient, and fair. We fought for better oversight, more equitable committee staffing, a more truthful Congressional Record, and greater access for the people to the institutions of Government. We opposed proxy abuses, short-cutting procedural protections, anything that would abridge the rights and prerogative of all our Members.

And we had a fair amount of success, for which so much of the credit is due BILL STEIGER. He knew what was important and why. He understood the need to master floor procedure, both to protect rights and to advance policies. He combined the highest motives with the finest tactical skills. And everyone here knew that he would persevere—with conviction, good humor, and infinite patience.

Though I did not serve with him on his legislative committees—Education and Labor, Ways and Means, and the Select Committee on Committees, for example—he brought those same qualities and talents to the great questions of public education, labor relations, and trade and tax policy. To those who followed such legislation closely, there was never any doubt where BILL STEIGER stood, never any question of the continuous impact of his probing mind and his analytical skill.

Mr. Speaker, in its highest form, politics can be the noblest of the professions. Its purposes and its functions—no less than the government of the people, in their name and with their authority—require of the men and women who practice it sufficient selflessness to place the welfare of the community ahead of their own.

Too rarely do we reach that ideal. BILL STEIGER, however—in the way he lived his life and practiced his profession—showed us all that the ideal is not entirely out of reach. In doing so, he may well have left us that most elusive of legacies: an increased measure of respect for the worth of what we are seeking to accomplish here.

Proceedings in the Senate

MONDAY, January 15, 1979.

Mr. PROXMIRE. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on House Resolution 12.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Ford) laid before the Senate a resolution which was read as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 12

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable WILLIAM A. STEIGER, a Representative from the State of Wisconsin.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. PROXMIRE. Mr. President, WILLIAM STEIGER, the Representative from the Sixth District of Wisconsin, was a most unusual and remarkable Member of Congress. He was an amazing young man, a very attractive young man; he was 40 years old and looked 25, full of life, with a great sense of humor, extremely popular, very intelligent and able.

I think one of the most respected columnists in this country is James Reston of the New York Times. Mr. Reston published a column on the death of Representative STEIGER when he died and I would like to read briefly from it. He said:

The sudden death of Rep. WILLIAM STEIGER of Wisconsin at the age of 40 has been marked here by an exceptional outpouring of respect and affection for one of the most promising young men in Congress.

Mainly this was a reaction to the magic of his personality, the gifts of his energy and intelligence and the shock of his premature death, but there was something beyond that.

It was not merely that STEIGER arrived here 12 years ago as the youngest member of Congress, or that he advanced by diligence to a leading position on the Ways and Means Committee. * * *

The point should not be misunderstood STEIGER was effective in the House of Representatives not because, like John Kennedy at his own age, he had presidential ambitions, but because he didn't. He thought he had plenty to learn and plenty of time. He studied and learned the cards in the congressional deck, and the mystifying techniques of the legislative process. And he worked tirelessly on the substance of taxes, the military security of the Nation and the internal struggles of his party.

Mr. President, this article is one of many fine tributes to Representative STEIGER, and I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Reston's full article be printed in the Record at this point.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

STEIGER WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS GOP

(By James Reston)

WASHINGTON.—The sudden death of Rep. WILLIAM STEIGER of Wisconsin at the age of 40 has been marked here by an exceptional outpouring of respect and affection for one of the most promising young men in Congress.

Mainly this was a reaction to the magic of his personality, the gifts of his energy and intelligence and the shock of his premature death, but there was something beyond that.

It was not merely that STEIGER arrived here 12 years ago as the youngest member of Congress, or that he advanced by diligence to a leading position on the Ways and Means Committee. (It is, in a way, that he was a symbol of the problems of youth in a Republican Party dominated by old men.)

The point should not be misunderstood STEIGER was effective in the House of Representatives not because, like John Kennedy at his own age, he had presidential ambitions, but because he didn't. He thought he had plenty to learn and plenty of time. He studied and learned the cards in the congressional deck, and the mystifying techniques of the legislative process. And he worked tirelessly on the substance of taxes, the military security of the nation and the internal struggles of his party.

I cannot pretend to be wholly objective about this modest and engaging young man and his lovely wife Janet Dempsey Steiger. My eldest son, Richard, was his roommate at the University of Wisconsin and best man at their wedding, but sometimes you have to be personal to be understood.

Nobody can say that the Republican Party held him back. His qualities of mind and character were recognized. He was able to take the lead in the battle to reduce the capital gains tax this year, and he played an important role in the struggle between Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan at the 1976 Republican presidential nominating convention. But there are limits on the ambitions of youth in the Republican Party that do not exist to the same extent in the Democratic Party.

In congressional politics, the Republicans have been in the minority in both the House and Senate for 41 out of the last 45 years. Only in the 80th Congress from 1947-49 and the 83d from 1953-55 have they been in control. Getting to the top for a young Republican on Capitol Hill can easily be a

lifetime career, even the discouraging career of a very long lifetime, which STEIGER didn't have.

In presidential politics, the outlook for young Republicans these days is more bleak, and even for middle-aged Republicans like Howard Baker of Tennessee, the Republican leader of the Senate, or Charles Mathias of Maryland or George Bush of Texas, former head of the CIA and ambassador to the United Nations and Peking, the prospects are not very good.

So there is clearly a difference between the parties these days about the age of responsibility in presidential elections. Kennedy captured the Democratic Party almost against its will and took over the White House at the age of 43, the youngest president of the 20th Century except Theodore Roosevelt, who was 42 in 1901 when he took the oath of office.

Again after the Johnson, Nixon and Ford administrations, the Democrats passed over the elders of their party and elected Jimmy Carter at the age of 52. But even now the Republicans are still looking primarily not to the rising generation in their 40s or 50s, but the familiar figures of the past, Reagan, Ford and John Connally, now all in their middle 60s.

It was clear to STEIGER and some of the other young hopefuls of the GOP that another divisive battle between the elders of the party for the presidential nomination of 1980 could only hurt the Republican chances of recapturing the White House.

There was even some vague talk about trying to organize a mid-term convention to test the strength not of the Steigers or the men of his generation, but to rally behind Baker or Bush or one of the middle-aged Republican moderates, but nothing came of this and STEIGER had given up the idea before he died.

For it was clear to him as it still is to most other Republican leaders that the decisive instruments of power in the Republican Party still lie with the dominant figures of the last Republican convention, particularly with Reagan, and that only hope of younger challengers lies in the primary elections.

It never occurred to STEIGER to be one of the challengers, but the thought of change, of debating the issue within the party before staggering into another battle with the same candidates who divided the GOP and lost the last election was at least a fleeting notion that he didn't live to pursue.

At least, he believed that the new generation of Republican leaders should be heard before the party loitered down into another election with the same cast of characters, and it's still a pretty good idea.

Mr. PROXMIRE. Mr. President, on behalf of my colleague, Senator Nelson, and myself, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution will be stated.

The resolution was read as follows:

SENATE RESOLUTION 16

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Honorable WILLIAM A. STEIGER, late a Representative from the State of Wisconsin.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate recesses today, it recess as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative.

Mr. PROXMIRE. Mr. President, I move the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. TOWER. Mr. President, will the Senator withhold that, and yield to me?

Mr. PROXMIRE. Mr. President, I am delighted to yield to the Senator from Texas.

Mr. TOWER. Mr. President, I want to express my thanks to the distinguished senior Senator from Wisconsin and his colleague (Senator Nelson) for offering this fine tribute to Representative STEIGER. He was well known to those of us on this side of the aisle who had an opportunity to work with him on many substantive matters affecting the economy of the United States, and on many matters that affected the Republican Party.

It was my privilege to work with him, sometimes on the opposite side of the fence, on intraparty matters, but he was a man for whom I always had a tremendous regard, and one man who, although he had no inordinate personal ambitions for himself, engendered so much respect and esteem from his colleagues that I think it is very likely, had he survived, that he would have gone on to very much higher office indeed.

So, on behalf of the Republican side of the aisle, I would like to join with our distinguished colleague from Wisconsin in expressing our sorrow on the loss of this distinguished colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution was considered and agreed to.

Mr. TOWER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. PROXMIRE. Mr. President, I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. PROXMIRE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I may yield briefly to the Senator from North Carolina without losing my right to the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, and pursuant to the provisions of Senate Resolution 16, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Hon. WILLIAM A. STEIGER, late a Representative from the State of Wisconsin, and also pursuant to the provisions of Senate Resolution 17, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Hon. Leo J. Ryan, late a Representative from the State of California, the Senate will now stand in recess until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, at the hour of 2:02 p.m., the Senate recessed until tomorrow, Friday, January 19, 1979, at 11 a.m.



Memorial services held in the House main
E 840.8.S67U54 1979



3 1262 02138 7096

LAD

FLARE



31262021387096